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A SEMI-MONTHLY JOURNAL OF

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EDITED BY
FRANCIS F. BROWNE.

Volume XXVIII.
No. 333.

CHICAGO, MAY 1, 1900.

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A TRULY GREAT BOOK

AMONG the manuscripts which came to us last fall was one entitled "Flame, Electricity, and the Camera" (Man's Progress from the First Kindling of Fire to the Wireless Telegraph and the Photography of Color), by George Iles. On the top of the package of sheets was a copy of a letter addressed to the author by Prof. John Fiske of Cambridge, who had read the manuscript carefully and wrote as follows:

"I have read your book with an intense interest growing into red-hot enthusiasm. It is one of the most fascinating books that I have seen in the last ten years. Your points are so well taken, so happily and richly illustrated with examples, and their bearing on the main argument is so skilfully kept in view, that the result is to my mind a truly great book, and I venture to predict for it a great future."

The manuscript was turned over to an authority whose judgment goes far with us. Here is his report:

"You may count yourself fortunate in having had submitted to you a book of this calibre. You can be sure, also, that no other publisher has ever had an opportunity to publish it — as in this case you never would have seen the manuscript. Publish it as quickly as you can, and in the best style you can; it is worthy of the finest work you can put into it, and it will sell for years and years and do you much credit. The book not only shows great research and puts forth vital twentieth century facts in a novel and impressive way, but the author's style is extraordinarily good. One word more: Follow the author's suggestions as to full illustrations — he knows what he is talking about."

The MS. of "Flame, Electricity, and the Camera" was put in hand at once; the illustrations, which include plates showing the three-color process, half-tones, unusual photographic processes, etc., and many other illustrations, have taken long to prepare. The whole work is finished and is just out.

Mr. Iles tells simply and so untechnically as to be easily understood by any reader what fire, electricity, and the camera have accomplished in the work of civilization; he tells clearly and effectively of the latest wonders in science.

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THE DIAL, 1880-1900.

With the publication of the present number, THE DIAL celebrates its twentieth anniversary. We trust that the interest in this fact which is felt by editors and publishers will be shared by our readers also, and that the present anniversary issue, departing as to its contents from our usual custom, will prove an acceptable substitute for what we offer our readers upon other occasions. We have thought it permissible, for once, to pretermitt the publication of any critical notices of new books, and to prepare instead a series of articles dealing with the developments in literature and those other aspects of culture which constitute our province, that have taken place during the twenty years of our existence. With the exception of the first article, which sketches the more salient features of transatlantic literary development during the period in question, the contents of this issue deal with American subjects, with the various activities concerned in the production and distribution of books in this country, and with our recent educational progress. We trust also that the kind words which we have received upon this occasion from so many quarters, and which it gives us so much satisfaction to print, will not be without interest to the wide circle of our friends.

THE DIAL is not in the habit of speaking about itself, but we may perhaps be indulged upon the present occasion to the extent of a few words as to the external history of our twenty years of publication. THE DIAL was founded May 1, 1880, by Mr. Francis F. Browne, in connection with the publishing house of Jansen, McClurg & Co., bearing the imprint of that firm. Under these auspices, it made a monthly appearance for a little more than twelve years. In the summer of 1892, Mr. Browne purchased the periodical from its previous owners, and THE DIAL COMPANY was organized as a corporation under the Illinois statute. Mr. William Morton Payne and Mr. Edward Gilpin Johnson, both of whom had been frequent contributors to THE DIAL for many years, became formally associated with

Mr. Browne in the editorship, while Mr. F. G. Browne, who had been in charge of the business interests of the paper since 1888, was appointed as the business manager. It was decided to make *THE DIAL* a semi-monthly publication, with a slight advance in the rate of subscription. The first number of the new semi-monthly issue was dated September 1, 1892, and from that date until the present, *THE DIAL* has appeared regularly upon the first and the sixteenth day of each month. As twelve numbers constitute a volume, the thirteenth volume was made up of the four numbers from May to August, 1892, inclusive, and the eight numbers from September 1 to December 16, inclusive, of that year. Since then the volumes have been semi-annual, completed in June and December of each year. In consequence of these facts, *THE DIAL* is now in its twenty-eighth volume, and the present issue of the paper is numbered three hundred and thirty-three.

The changes made in 1892 included, besides the increased frequency of publication, a considerable enlargement in the scope of *THE DIAL*, and an increased diversification of its contents. Previously, it had confined itself somewhat rigidly to the reviewing of new works; it now added such features as the regular leading editorial, the occasional essay upon some literary or educational subject, the department of "Communications" which has proved so interesting, and the amplified miscellany. These new features added noticeably to its influence, and evidence of the satisfaction which they occasioned was found in many expressions of personal opinion, as well as in the rapidly increasing list of subscriptions. *THE DIAL* has had four homes during the twenty years of its existence; its editorial and business offices and its composing-rooms are now conveniently and commodiously provided for in the Fine Arts Building, which shelters under a single roof so large a proportion of the literary, educational, and cultural interests of Chicago. These are the chief circumstances that concern our external history; we wish particularly to call attention to the fact that the editorial conduct and the business management of *THE DIAL* have remained practically in the same hands during the whole term of our existence, thus making possible a continuity of policy and unity of purpose not often preserved in the history of such a publication, and explaining, in no small part, perhaps, the paper's success.

The principles that *THE DIAL* stands for

are so well known to its readers that we need not reëffirm them here, except in the briefest terms. It stands first of all for the signed review, or in other words, for the responsible and authoritative criticism of current literature. It stands for the bookseller as a civilizing influence, and for the public library as an important auxiliary to the work of public education. It stands for the advancement of education subject to the restraints of a wise conservatism, for the humanistic rather than the materialistic training. It stands in an attitude of perpetual protest toward the vulgarizing tendencies of a large part of modern journalism. It stands for music and the drama as indispensable elements of a liberal culture. It stands for the endowed theatre and the endowed newspaper, not as utopian ideals, but as practical possibilities. It stands for an extension of the term of copyright, and for the removal of those vexatious restrictions whereby this nation with one hand grants copyright to foreigners, and with the other withdraws the proffered gift. It stands in unalterable opposition to our barbarous tariff upon books, works of art, and the instruments of scientific research. Although not concerned with the narrower issues of politics, *THE DIAL* is unwilling to remain silent when questions arise which touch the very principles upon which our civilization is based, and in such cases its voice will continue to be raised, as it has been raised more than once during the past few years, in behalf of those national ideals and international amenities which we cannot neglect without forfeiting the most precious part of our American birthright.

Entering now upon our second score of years, we hope to keep *THE DIAL* all it has been in the past, and to add to its usefulness in the future. If public appreciation of our efforts to maintain a high standard of literary criticism, and to advocate the cause of the higher culture in this country, shall continue to increase as it has been increasing since the scope of this journal was broadened eight years ago, we shall be deeply gratified. We already owe much to our friends, but will be glad to acknowledge a still greater debt. And we promise the public whose favor has made our existence possible, and has added to our following from year to year, that we will continue to represent, to the best of our endeavor, and as far as our resources shall make it possible, all those intellectual interests with which we have so long been identified.

I Twenty Years' Retrospect.

TRANSATLANTIC LITERATURE.

Although the chief purpose of this anniversary issue of *THE DIAL* is to consider the changes that have been wrought during the past twenty years in American literature, and in the conditions which affect those other departments of cultural activity with which the paper's work is allied, yet we must not miss the opportunity now presented of making some sort of brief survey of the recent course of literary history in England and on the Continent of Europe. When we get far enough away from any literary period to view it in the proper perspective, twenty years does not seem a very long time. That term of years taken almost anywhere in a past century might, except for the purposes of intensive study, be summarized in a few words. But when the twenty years in question are those that lie just back of the immediate present, the case is different, and the task far more difficult. We have so many recollections and personal associations with the books and writers of the period in which we have lived that it is not easy to single out the things that call for special mention. We cannot see the woods for the trees. We are tempted to magnify unimportant happenings, and to attach undue importance to names that may be clean forgotten a generation hence. But, making the fullest allowance for such illusions as arise from our intimate connection with the years in question, we cannot help thinking that the historian of the far distant future will see in the closing decades of the nineteenth century a period more noticeable than others of equal length for the rapidity of its literary development and the pronounced character of the changes which it has witnessed. One of its most marked characteristics will be seen to have been the great losses which it has sustained in the death of its most forceful writers, without any corresponding compensation in the appearance of others capable of filling the vacant places. How true this is of American literature will be seen from the special article upon that subject which is to follow. That it is equally true of English literature, using the term in its narrow sense, will appear evident upon a moment's reflection. In the case of both branches of literature in the English language, the losses of the last twenty years

have been so many and so great, the new writers of real force so few and far between, that we may well ask the question: Whom have we left to present to the century upon the threshold of which we are now standing? Cleverness and technical mastery are indeed offered us in many forms by our newer writers; the cleverness is almost preternatural at times, and the technique would put many of the older masters to blush. But the soul of literature does not live by these qualities alone, and, whatever momentary admiration they may arouse, they are not ultimately satisfactory. Nothing but genius gives lasting satisfaction, and to that we freely pardon those minor defects upon which pedagogues are wont to frown. Genius, however, is coming every year to be a rarer commodity in English literature, and the deficiency appears startling when we contrast the conditions of to-day with those of the sixties and the seventies.

With the Continental literatures the outlook is not quite so dark. The latter part of the century has been marked by a strong resurgence of national feeling among nearly all of the distinctive peoples of Europe. Magyars and Czechs are no longer content to be merged in the political conglomerate of Austria. Finns and Poles resent with increasing vehemence their subjection to Russian influences. Even the Norwegians chafe under the enforced union with their Swedish kinsmen, and assert their own separate nationality in every possible way. Thirty years of imperial Germany have really accomplished much for that unity of feeling which was only a dream of the future when the King of Prussia assumed the title of German Emperor in the palace at Versailles. Even France, throughout all modern history more unanimous and self-centred than the other nations of the Continent, has achieved a greater solidarity than ever before under the *régime* of the Republic. The Mediterranean countries, also, have shared in this renewal of national feeling, of which evidence may be adduced from the recent history of Greece, Italy, and Spain alike. This fortification of race sentiment, which has played havoc with so many political ambitions, has proved highly stimulating to literary activity.

Let us enumerate a few of the developments of Continental literature during the past twenty years, indicating at the same time some of the losses that have been sustained. Taking first the outlying countries, as distinguished from France and Germany, which represent

the core of present-day Continental culture, the following are among the more conspicuous facts to claim our attention. There has arisen in Spain a distinctively modern school of fiction, which has justly challenged the admiration of the reading world. It is true that Alarcon and Señor Galdos occupied the field for some years before the period with which we are dealing, but even Señor Galdos, in his later manner, is a very different person from the author of his earlier series of books concerned with the romance of Spanish history, and, taken in connection with Señores Valera and Valdès, with Señora Bazan, and with the dramatist, Señor Echegaray, he marks a transition in the spirit of Spanish literature which affords the plainest evidence that contemporary Spanish thought is no longer bound to the traditions of the past, but takes an active interest in all the problems of the modern world. In Italy, the modern movement, although it offers the unhealthy phase illustrated by the work of Signor d'Annunzio, offers also the sane developments represented by Signor de Amicis, Signor Fogazzaro, and Signor Verga. Signor Carducci remains what he has been for the last thirty or forty years, the one great Italian poet of our time, great, that is, in a sense that provokes comparison with the best that any literature has to give us. In Hungary, Mr. Jokai, full of years and honors, is the one writer who is generally known to readers everywhere; none of the younger men have thus far attracted much attention outside of their own country. Belgium is so closely affiliated with France that its writers do not appeal to us especially as Belgians, but to this statement there is the one noteworthy exception of M. Maeterlinck, whose work has had much vogue of recent years, and is particularly interesting on account of the way in which it illustrates some of the more exaggerated tendencies of what is called symbolism. M. Maeterlinck writes in the French language; the only living writer of Flemish generally known to English readers is the Dutch novelist, Heer Couperus, whose problem fictions have had a deserved success outside of Holland. That charming Dutch novelist who chooses to write under the name of "Maarten Maartens" has made himself practically an English novelist by writing his books in our own language. It is within very recent years, that is, within the last decade, that the astonishing novels of Mr. Sienkiewicz have come to be known throughout the world, and

have restored Poland to the literary map of Europe, although the political map has no place for it. It would hardly be an exaggeration to describe this writer as the most remarkable genius who has appeared in Continental literature during the period which we are now reviewing. In his work the consciousness of a noble race becomes intimately revealed to us—more intimately, in fact, than in the poems of Mickiewicz, or even in the music of Chopin—and the great part played by Poland in the history of Europe is made known to us. When we turn to Russia, our first thought is of the fact that Tourguénieff was living and writing twenty years ago, and of the irreparable loss to literature when he died in 1883. Since then the one great name in Russian literature has been that of Count Tolstoy, but even of him, writing from a literary rather than from a sociological point of view, one is compelled to say, *stat magni nominis umbra*, for "Anna Karenina" was published in 1877, and since then the author's footsteps have been straying erratically about in the morass of didacticism. In the Scandinavian countries, the most important happening of the last twenty years has been the immense widening of the bounds of Dr. Ibsen's reputation. Although for thirty years he had been producing play after play, including those great works upon which his fame will chiefly rest when the final account is taken, his name was practically unknown in 1880, except in Germany, outside of the Scandinavian kingdoms. It was in 1879 that Mr. Gosse, in his "Studies in the Literature of Northern Europe," first called the attention of English readers to the writer who has since become so widely read. Until well along in the eighties we never heard the name of Dr. Ibsen mentioned in this country, either in conversation or in print. Herr Björnson had for many years been known to our public as the author of certain idyllic tales of Norwegian peasant life, although even he was entirely unknown as dramatist or as lyric poet. The great widening of Dr. Ibsen's reputation coincided rather closely with the great change in method and subject-matter which came over his work about twenty years ago. In 1880 "The Pillars of Society" was three years old, and "A Doll Home" had been published only the year before. It is upon these two plays, and their ten successors, all dealing with the problems of modern society, that the author's reputation is even now chiefly based, a caprice

of popular judgment which completely ignores his real masterpieces. The same caprice of popular judgment, which we do not believe that time will justify, makes of him at present a more conspicuous figure than his great Norwegian contemporary. But, however these critical values may be readjusted by the coming generation, there is no doubt that for the present generation Dr. Ibsen represents one of the strongest influences now operating in literature. In Danish literature, the most important name of the last twenty years has been that of Dr. Georg Brandes, which fact is particularly interesting as a revindication of the claims of criticism to consideration as one of the branches of literature proper. It is a somewhat noteworthy fact that in one country, at least, a literary critic should remain for a long term of years its foremost man of letters.

German literature in 1880 had no poets worth speaking of, unless we mention a few such writers as Geibel, Bodenstedt, Fontane, and the author of "Der Trompeter von Säkkingen." It had, however, an important group of novelists in Auerbach and Freytag, Herr Spielhagen and Herr Heyse. To-day, as in 1880, we still think of Heine as the last of the great German poets, although a few, perhaps, may claim for the author of "Die Versunkene Glocke" the poetic laurel. Although Herr Spielhagen and Herr Heyse are still living and writing, their pristine fires are now little more than embers, and there can be no doubt that Herr Hauptmann now occupies the most conspicuous place in German letters. For some years the race was close between him and Herr Sudermann, but at present he seems to have outdistanced his only serious competitor. The prominence of these two writers, who are distinctly the most serious representatives of the Young Germany of letters, is important not only because of the intrinsic value of their writing, which is considerable, but also because they have given a new impulse to that form of the drama which is both *bühnenmässig* and literary. This modern rehabilitation of the acting drama as a form of literary art has been going on in several countries, but in no other, not even in France, as noticeably as in Germany. The respect with which the playhouse and its associations are treated in that country represents one of the most important things that Germany is now doing for literature. But in spite of all that we may say in behalf of recent German literature, the fact must be recognized that the Empire has not, in the thirty years of

its existence, accomplished as much as might reasonably have been expected. The output has been enormous, but mediocrity has characterized the greater part of it. It is only now and then that a poem or a book, a play or a critical monograph, has risen above that dead level; very little of the German literature produced during the past twenty years has won for itself that wide cosmopolitan hearing for which no really important work, in our age of alert publishing and quickly diffused intelligence, has long to wait. Before closing this paragraph, we should say a word about the influence exerted by the writings of Herr Nietzsche. That influence has been unwholesome and demoralizing, but it must be reckoned with in any attempt to trace the main currents of contemporary thought.

The French literature of the past twenty years resembles our own in the balance of its gains and losses, the former having been by no means commensurate with the latter. The greatest French writer of the century has died within the period under consideration, and, such was his vitality, and such the astonishing fertility of his genius, that even his octogenarian years did not preclude him, up to the very last, from continuing to enrich the treasure house of French song. The death of Leconte de Lisle, although far less significant than that of Hugo, was still a heavy loss to French poetry, and there are many persons to whom the wayward and poignant note struck from the lyre of Paul Verlaine came with a fresh charm that makes them sincere mourners of his death. Next to Victor Hugo, the greatest loss of French literature during the period under consideration was felt when Renan passed away in 1892, within a few days of the death of the greatest of our English poets. The death of Taine, soon thereafter, was also an event of more than common significance. Taine and Renan, however, had lived their lives and done their work. But it was the promise, even more than the achievement, of James Darmesteter that lent a peculiar touch of sadness to his premature taking-off. French literature has also lost the younger Dumas, Augier, Labiche, Feuillet, Daudet, Maupassant, and Cherbuliez. Flaubert died in 1880, at the very beginning of the period now under discussion. It is obvious that no such men are now left to French literature as those that have been taken away. To set off against the name of Hugo we have the names of MM. Sully-Prudhomme and Coppée. Against the names of the older dramatists we

have those of MM. Sardou and Rostand. To take the place of the lost novelists we have M. Zola, whose present notoriety will not avail to save his literary reputation, M. "Loti," M. Bourget, M. Rod, and a host of other excellent second-rate men. We have also, indeed, M. Anatole France, that well-nigh impeccable *proseur*, but even his name cannot go far toward restoring the lost balance. The French literature of the past twenty years has been as prolific as ever, as far as the main departments of *belles-lettres* are concerned, but very few works in any of these departments command our attention by their preëminent excellence. There has been a noteworthy movement in poetry, in the direction of what is vaguely known as "symbolism," much discussed by those who affect the cult, but not to be considered very seriously by those who are concerned for the higher interests of French literature. The movement seems to be characterized by an impatience of all artistic restraint, a revolt against the chief canons of poetical form, a somewhat sickly cast of thought, and a tendency to exalt little men to the rank of great masters. This tendency is, of course, exhibited chiefly within the limits of its own clique of mutual admirers, and is not characteristic of sober criticism, as represented by such men as MM. Brunetière and Faguet. In other words, there is in the France of to-day, as in every other country of Europe, a group of *jeunes*, who are trying all sorts of unregulated experiments in verse and prose, who are making a great pother about their doings, and who are minutely subdivided into little parties and sects, united only in their common endeavor to accomplish great things with small intellectual means. Far more creditable to the contemporary French spirit is that other and broader movement of thought which has been seeking, ever since the nadir of imperialism was reached thirty years ago, to regenerate the moral ideals of the French people, and to restore the atmosphere of earnestness which seemed to have been lost. How nobly Renan and Taine labored to this end is matter of familiar knowledge. Their efforts have born fruit in the writings of Darmesteter and Guyau, of MM. Brunetière, Lavisse, Wagner, and Rod, and of the Vicomte de Vogüé. If this movement has in some cases tended toward a reactionary neo-Catholicism, its net outcome has been for good, and its influence upon the younger generation must have been great, if not at the present time exactly calculable.

Turning now to English literature — our own literature upon the other side of the ocean — the capital fact confronts us that in 1880 there were six great English poets among the living, and that in 1900 there remains but one. During the twenty years Tennyson and Browning, Rossetti and Morris and Arnold, have all passed away, leaving Mr. Swinburne in exalted isolation, the only great poet of the nineteenth century whom we may hope will live to carry on into the twentieth its glorious literary tradition. Our age of gold has to all seeming reached an end, and Mr. Stedman, who a quarter of a century ago recognized in the years of the Victorian reign a distinct literary period, which even then showed signs of drawing to a close, must himself be a little surprised at the completeness with which his prediction has been borne out by the event. In the place of our major poets we have now only minor ones, and the fact that we have them in larger numbers than ever before offers us no consolation for the loss of the great departed. Aside from Mr. Swinburne, we are compelled to point, when questioned concerning our living poets, to Mr. Aubrey De Vere, Mr. George Meredith, Mr. Theodore Watts-Dunton, Mr. Robert Bridges, Mr. William Watson, Mr. Stephen Phillips, Mr. W. B. Yeats, and Mr. Rudyard Kipling. We hold these men in esteem, it is true, but however we may admire the delicate art of Mr. Bridges, for example, or the resonant virility of Mr. Kipling, our sense of proportion does not permit us to set these men upon anything like the plane occupied by the great poets who have died since 1880. And, with but few exceptions, our living poets seem to be no more than "little sonnet-men,"

"Who fashion, in a shrewd, mechanic way,
Songs without souls that flicker for a day,
To vanish in irrevocable night."

Prose fiction of some sort or other we have always with us, and the names of Mr. Meredith and Mr. Hardy would lend distinction to any period, but the great age of the Victorian novelists ended with the death of "George Eliot" in 1881. Although frequently compared with that woman of genius, Mrs. Ward may hardly be said to fill her place. Since her death we have also lost Lord Beaconsfield, Trollope, Black, Blackmore, and Stevenson. When we turn to the great writers of prose, the contrast between the living and the dead is seen to be almost as pronounced as in the case of the poets. Within twenty years, Carlyle and Ruskin, by far the

greatest *prosateurs* of our time, have ceased to appeal to us with the living voice. The persuasive eloquence of Newman and Martineau has been hushed, and the plea for culture, voiced in such dulcet terms by Arnold and Pater, is no longer heard. All these men are now among

"The dead, but sceptred sovereigns, who still rule
Our spirits from their urns,"

but to whose counsel we may no longer turn when new questions arise and call for new solutions. Of the four great men of science who have caught the ear of the general public during the past twenty years, and whose teachings have wrought so complete a change in the attitude of all thinking men toward the claims of scientific culture, and the place of science in education, Mr. Herbert Spencer alone remains to us. Darwin, Huxley, and Tyndall have died, but happily they lived long enough to witness the general acceptance of the ideas for which they fought so good a fight, and to be assured that the evolutionary principle had won for itself the suffrages of all whose judgment was worth having. The older school of historical writing, as represented by Green and Froude, has given place to the school represented by Dr. Gardiner and the Bishop of Oxford. The scholarship of these men is no doubt deeper and more accurate than was that of their predecessors, but their "literature" is sadly to seek, and their influence consequently restricted. The general reader, with a taste for this sort of writing, does not turn to the "Select Charters," but rather takes down from the shelf his well-worn "Short History of the English People," and is not particularly concerned with the fact that later research has invalidated some of its positions. The two most conspicuous cases of personal success achieved in English authorship during the past twenty years have been those of Stevenson and Mr. Kipling. Both afford striking illustrations of the "craze" in literature. A few years ago we were told by many enthusiastic readers that in Stevenson the great masters of our fiction had found a worthy successor. More recently we have been assured that Mr. Kipling is a great poet, and the ill-considered laudations of his admirers have been dinned into our ears. Such outbursts of uncritical applause always make the judicious grieve, but their effect soon wears away, and the men who occasion them come to be viewed in the proper perspective. Stevenson has already taken his place as an entertaining novelist of the second or third

class, and his singularly lovable personality is not now mistaken for literary genius by any great number of persons. Mr. Kipling, likewise, is fast coming to be viewed as a member of the considerable company of the minor poets of to-day, and his essential message, the more closely we examine it, is found to make much of its appeal to the more vulgar tastes and the baser instincts of human nature. Mr. Stephen Phillips is the latest of the "new poets" who are discovered and exploited now and then by English critics, and there is no reason thus far apparent why his case should not parallel that of all the others. He has, no doubt, an exceptional gift of refined poetic expression, but there is no distinctively new note in his song; there is merely a new blending of the notes which are already familiar to us. To illustrate what is really meant by a new note in English song we must go back to Rossetti's "Poems" of 1870, or to 1866 and the first volume of Mr. Swinburne's "Poems and Ballads." The past two decades have witnessed no such event in English literature as was marked by the appearance of either of the volumes just mentioned. When we contrast the period of the sixties and seventies with the period of the eighties and nineties we may realize all the difference between a period in which the creative imagination is at full tide, and a period in which the flood of genius is fast ebbing away. In the later of the two periods English literature has rounded out the great work of the earlier; as the great writers have died, only lesser ones have appeared to take their places; and many of the younger men, recognizing the futility of any attempt to carry on the old tradition upon its old lines, have become mere experimenters in new moods and forms, hoping to hit upon some promising line of new literary endeavor, but not as yet indicating with any precision the direction which will be taken by the movement of the coming century. This restlessness, this confusion of ideals, and this uncertainty of aim are the unmistakable marks of a transition period in literature. A remarkable age has rounded to its close, and it is impossible to determine with any assurance whether the age to come will be merely critical and sterile, or whether it will give birth to some new creative impulse.

What has just been said of the last years of our English literature is generally true of literature throughout the world. Its activities are everywhere largely experimental; most of the younger writers in all countries appear to

be convinced that their only hope of making a mark lies in the discovery of new methods and new forms. We seem to be living in an age of literary anarchy, in which every sort of excess or extravagance claims a hearing. There are schools and sects and cliques everywhere, but there are no controlling principles. This aggressive and unregulated individualism even seeks to bend criticism to its heterogeneous aims by denying the very principle of critical authority. It pretends that the belief in critical canons is a superstition, and that individual liking is the only test of good literature. Impressionism in criticism is so far in the ascendant that many people no longer find intelligible the point of view from which a critic can say of a composition that he likes it personally, but that it is nevertheless bad literature. Yet this is the point of view that every critic must at times be prepared to take, if he have any regard for the seriousness of his calling. Few critics have ever so succeeded in eliminating the personal equation from their make-up as to bring about an absolute alignment between their subjective impressions and their objective judgments. In the presence of all the diversity of purpose exhibited in the literary activity of recent years, and of all the diversity of critical opinion with which it has been greeted, the search for any principle of unity becomes well-nigh hopeless. There is, however, one fairly comprehensive statement which may be made, and upon which we are justified in placing considerable emphasis. The European literature of the last twenty years has been more distinctly sociological in character than the literature of any preceding period. The social consciousness has been aroused as never before, and the complex relations of men and women, both to each other and to society in the aggregate, have supplied themes for a constantly increasing number of novels and poems and plays. A large proportion of the writers who have been named in the foregoing pages illustrate some phase of this new or at least heightened sense of the duties of human beings toward one another. It was more than accidental, it was rather in obedience to an irresistible tendency of human thought, that such men as Ruskin, Count Tolstoy, Herr Björnson, and Dr. Ibsen turned at about the same time, and with a common motive, from the past to the present, from the romantic to the real, from work in which the æsthetic element was predominant to work in which the ethical element was set, sometimes far too ob-

trusively, in the foreground. This movement resulted in a manifest loss to art, but it has accomplished much for the betterment of mankind. The change of aim and method which in these writers marks so sharp a contrast between their earlier and their later work is paralleled in many other writers of less importance. And many of the younger men, following the biological law which makes the development of the individual to a certain extent an epitome of the development of the race, have started upon their career as idealists, only to succumb, after a few preliminary flights, to the tendency which has done so much to make of modern literature the handmaid of social analysis and ethical reform. The interests of pure literature have suffered in this transforming process, but life is even more important than literature, and it is possible that the final reckoning will show the gains to have balanced the losses. At all events, this introduction of an avowed social and ethical purpose into nearly all sorts of writing is the most characteristic thing that the last twenty years have done for the literature of the world.

WILLIAM MORTON PAYNE.

AMERICAN LITERATURE.

During the twenty years of its existence THE DIAL must have reviewed nearly twice twenty thousand books, and of these quite a large proportion must have been produced in America. How is such a mass of literature to be sifted and weighed? And how is one who has grown to manhood during the period, who has formed friendships with contemporary writers and been influenced by contemporary books, to judge impartially of the value of a literature that is still evolving, or to describe its tendencies or fix its limitations?

I cannot answer my own questions, for books and writers appear to compass me so thickly about that when I think of recent American literature I seem to be in a forest the range of which I cannot estimate because I can see nothing but trees. Yet whatever may be the propriety of any contemporary's dealing with so broad and complex a subject as American Literature since 1880, it can scarcely be doubted that it is eminently proper for THE DIAL to celebrate its twentieth anniversary by publishing a *résumé* of the achievements of American authors during a period in which

the journal itself has been a source of inspiration to all who care for good literature. Perhaps in THE DIAL's necessity I may find my opportunity for seeking and obtaining pardon for the rashness of which I am about to be guilty.

It may seem to be a bad omen to begin with a necrology; but the necrology of a period of literature is often instructive. More veteran authors lived into and died within the last two decades of our literary history than was the case, seemingly, with any two previous decades. Emerson, Longfellow, Whittier, Lowell, Holmes, Whitman, Bancroft, Parkman, Curtis, Mrs. Stowe—all these eminent writers, who had won their fame years before, passed away within our period and exerted a powerful influence upon it, not merely by their writings but by their presence in the flesh. Many contemporary writers doubtless feel as though they grew up among giants, and while some have been incited to emulation, others have perhaps suffered discouragement, and still others have been tempted to win fame by a revolt from established literary traditions. It is at least clear that certain *outré* tendencies among our younger writers date from years when scarcely a veteran-author of the first rank was left alive.

Some other names in our necrology will serve to show how very different from its predecessors is the epoch we are studying. Lydia Maria Child and Jones Very died in 1880; yet how far away do we who applaud Admiral Dewey and read "David Harum" seem to be from the days of the Abolitionists and the Transcendentalists! And yet Christopher Pearse Cranch, who wrote in Emerson's "Dial" along with Margaret Fuller and other by-gone worthies, lived until 1892, the year in which Mr. Rhodes published the first volumes of his History of the United States from the Compromise of 1850. The long life of Judge Gayarré, the historian of Louisiana, who died in 1895 at the age of ninety, takes us back equally into the ante-bellum period, as does that of the romancer W. S. Mayo, author of "The Berber," who died in the same year at the age of eighty-three. Hermann Melville, famous for his sea tales, died in 1891, the year that saw the publication of Mr. Stockton's "Squirrel Inn" and Mr. Harris's "Balaam and his Master." But the gulf that separates us from the past is best revealed, perhaps, in the fact that Albert Pike, who was born in the same year with Poe and whose "Hymns to

the Gods," published in "Blackwood's," delighted the readers of 1839, died comparatively unnoticed in the same year with Melville, George Bancroft, James Parton, and Lowell.

But if veterans honored or practically forgotten have died within our period, others have fortunately lived through it, and we have been privileged to know and admire veterans in the making. Mr. Donald G. Mitchell, Dr. Edward Everett Hale, Colonel Higginson, Mr. C. G. Leland, Mr. Richard Henry Stoddard, Mr. Thomas Bailey Aldrich, Professor Charles Eliot Norton, Mrs. Julia Ward Howe—to mention no others—belong to the first class. Mr. Charles Dudley Warner, Mr. Howells, Dr. Weir Mitchell, Mr. Clemens, Mr. Harte, Mr. Henry James, Jr., Mr. Stedman, obviously represent the second. These lists could be easily extended, but the names given will serve our purposes.

Other names belonging to different categories must, however, be added. Within our period careers that seemed to promise much in preceding decades have been nipped, and others have begun and been cut short. Sidney Lanier who, whatever the rank ultimately assigned him, will doubtless be counted the most important writer the South has produced since Poe, succumbed in his brave fight against disease in 1881. Helen Hunt Jackson, probably our greatest woman poet, died in 1885 at the age of fifty-four. Emma Lazarus followed her at the age of thirty-eight. H. C. Bunner, Eugene Field, Harold Frederic, and Richard Hovey rose to distinction within our limited epoch, did their work faithfully, and passed to their rewards. But our concern is chiefly with the living, to whom we may now turn with the remark that it may be interesting to note that the necrology of the two decades contains besides the names already given those of Phillips Brooks, H. W. Grady, Wendell Phillips, R. H. Dana, Jr., Francis J. Child, John Esten Cooke, Paul H. Hayne, John G. Saxe, James T. Fields, J. G. Holland, Lucy Larcom, W. W. Story, Richard Malcolm Johnston, Justin Winsor, Henry Ward Beecher, Charles A. Dana, Celia Thaxter, Emily Dickinson, Constance Fenimore Woolson, E. P. Whipple, Richard Grant White, Joseph Kirkland, and not a few others.

Are our living writers, including all our veterans, equal in power and variety of performance to their brother writers whose deaths have just been chronicled? This question naturally

forces itself upon us, but we may as well postpone our answer, and perhaps evade it altogether. It is at least certain, however, that in point of mere numbers we who are writing in America to-day compose a more formidable body than any previous generation of writers has done in this country. This is naturally not surprising, in view of the great increase that has taken place in population; but, when we compare the number of writers contemporary with Charles Brockden Brown with the number contemporary with Mr. William Dean Howells, we perceive that mere growth of population cannot explain the phenomenon under discussion. Authors have multiplied in answer to greater trade demands made by publishers, in answer to the promptings of the self-conscious spirit of the age, and also because the spread of education, especially in the vernacular, has made it possible for more and more men and women to develop a fairly good style and to master at least the rudiments of the writer's craft. Our republic of letters is fast ceasing to be aristocratic in character and is becoming thoroughly democratic—a change which is also taking place in the mother country.

It is more possible to regret this change than to deny it. Beside our literary men and women of 1900 the "Literati" of the forties cut quite a small figure; but where are our Poe and our Hawthorne? Who among our poets has taken Longfellow's place? Who equals Lowell as a critic? What living novelist is as secure of an undying reputation as that old-fashioned romancer Cooper, at whom some of the present-day purveyors of fiction delight to sneer? "Perhaps after all," a malicious observer might remark, "the real reason you modern writers form a democracy is that you have no aristocrats—no really great men among you!" Some of us might reply that such a remark would not be quite fair, that sooner or later

the bell-like fame
Of this or that down-trodden name

will meet our eager ears, and that at least the authors of "Huckleberry Finn" and "The Rise of Silas Lapham" are great enough to lend respectability to the epoch. But, however legitimate such an answer, few of us, doubtless, can survey our recent literary production without concluding that with regard to the creation of masterpieces of imaginative literature other periods have surpassed us. In poetry no name has attained great preëminence; in fiction, despite the phenomenal sales of certain novels,

we have scarcely more than one book to mention in the same breath with "The Last of the Mohicans" and "The Scarlet Letter"; in literary craftsmanship or art, while we can fairly say that there are ten good writers now to one in 1840, we must candidly admit that we have not a single name worthy to be set alongside that of Poe. Our strength plainly lies in the number of our important writers, and in the variety and high average merit of their work; in other words, Democracy is justified of her children even in the domain of letters.

Let us now take a nearer view of these writers and their work. With comparatively little trouble I have made out a list of one hundred and fifty authors living to-day within the United States—with the exception of one or two exiles—all or nearly all of whom would, I think, deserve to have their work considered, to a fair extent at least, by a literary historian working on the scale adopted by Professor Moses Coit Tyler. The writer of a handbook or a school manual could undoubtedly afford to pass over a third or more of these names; but a real investigator of the period would not omit nearly so many. It is needless to say that before this article is printed my list will have been destroyed, and that I have no intention of giving it here. After all, the individual names do not matter much; what does matter is the large total and the classes into which it may be distributed.

I find that of my one hundred and fifty names twenty-seven are poets; twenty-seven critics and essayists; sixty-seven novelists; nineteen historians; and ten miscellaneous writers whom it is difficult to classify. Of course some of these authors, like Mr. Howells and Dr. van Dyke—for I do not mind saying that both are on my list,—might easily be included under three of the above heads, but I have placed them where they seem primarily to belong. Now what conclusions do these figures seem to suggest?

In the first place they tell us what we already knew, that fiction is the dominant literary form of the day. They show also that criticism and history are holding their own well, as we should naturally have inferred. They prove, too, that writers still own allegiance to poetry, even if most readers do not. They show furthermore, I think, that the tendency to specialization of scholarship, so marked of late years, has not had quite the deleterious effect upon the production of real literature that might have been expected. Not a few of the critics, historians,

and miscellaneous writers included above are specialists whose minute studies have not prevented them from acquiring a broad, liberal culture. Finally, our figures seem to prove that in spite of or perhaps in reaction from our utilitarian character as a people, a decided majority of our writers who have made their marks have striven to succeed in the highest regions of imaginative literature. These aspiring souls may not in the end invalidate the judgment passed upon our literature, and more especially its prose, by Professor George R. Carpenter, to the effect that its sound, common sense, wholesome qualities make it essentially a "citizen's literature"; but they are doing their best to set it beside literatures rich in imaginative works, such as those of Great Britain and France. The literature in which such a tendency can be discovered is surely in no unhealthy state, even if it can at the time boast of few living writers of eminent originality.

But the figures given are susceptible of other manipulations—more or less instructive. The list was made out with no thought as to the respective proportions of the two sexes represented; at the end it was found that they stood as five to one in favor of the sex that has hitherto dominated literature. This seems to be on the whole not a bad showing for our women, and the disparity is likely to decrease in the future in view of the large amount of reading done by women, the spread of higher education among them, and the remarkable literary activity of their various clubs. The showing made by them appears to be still more noticeable from the fact that with practically only one exception every woman counted is doing work in either poetry or fiction—that is, in the highest ranges of literature. The more ideal sex has the more ideal aims.

From some points of view literature should know neither section nor country, but it is interesting to observe that of the one hundred and fifty names selected nearly one hundred should be credited to the North and East, and the remainder almost evenly divided between South and West. New England is still influential, but does not dominate our literature as formerly. The Middle States have at last equaled her or surpassed her—perhaps in consequence of the growth of a distinct school of literary New Yorkers; the West has proved that business prosperity is not its only ideal; and the New South has distinguished itself in no way so much as by finding in its young

writers an articulate voice. It is true that many of the authors credited to the West and South have found it desirable to join the important group of writers that has wrested the primacy from Boston and made New York the literary centre of the country; but they still, like Mr. James Lane Allen, continue in their writings to smack of the soil upon which their youth was spent. On the other hand, this setting of the literary tide toward New York, which is paralleled by the similar movements toward London, Paris, and Berlin, is somewhat counterbalanced by the facts that in the past few years Boston has shown increased activity in publishing, that Chicago has become a centre of the trade in the Northwest, and that even in comparatively smaller cities numerous important firms are stimulating the energy of local authors and scouring the country to discover fresh talent. It seems quite certain that from Boston to San Francisco the future is likely to witness a fair development of local writers and publishers.

This matter of local centres is more important than it appears at first sight. The great centres of artistic and literary production in the past, from Athens to the Boston of the Transcendentalists, have been also centres of a homogeneous population. Can a really great literature grow up in the midst of a heterogeneous population, and how far are we Americans a heterogeneous people? These questions confront every serious student of our literature, and it would at least seem that our literary future would be more assured if we could be certain that the growth of New York, which is quite inevitable, would not prevent the development of local centres. Even as it is, we may find profit in noting that the comparatively homogeneous population of the South has made the greatest relative advance in our period, and that in the South, as elsewhere, it seems in the main to be the comparatively homogeneous stocks or strains of population, like those of Tennessee and Kentucky, that have furnished both writers and subjects for literary exploitation.

From local literary centres we naturally pass to local fiction, and we hardly need consult any list of our novelists to conclude that American fiction since 1880 has developed more fully the tendency that became pronounced in the seventies—to portray with minute skill the modes of life and thought peculiar to limited classes or stocks of population inhabiting limited areas. The Forty-niners of Bret Harte and the

Mississippi Valley types of Mark Twain have been succeeded by Virginia negroes, Georgia "crackers," Louisiana creoles, Tennessee and Kentucky mountaineers, Wisconsin farmers, New England villagers and — but the list is too formidable and the end is not yet. In this development of local fiction, which has been paralleled in England and Scotland, our epoch stands in distinct contrast with the ante-bellum period, although books like Longstreet's "Georgia Scenes" might be cited to show that evolution rather than revolution has taken place. That the work done in the various restricted fields has been often admirable in quality it would be foolish to deny, but whether our novelists have shown sufficient knowledge of the human heart and mind to give their works currency after the manners and types they portray have ceased to be strange or have vanished before the leveling tide of civilization, is a question that the future alone can answer. Hawthorne's "House of the Seven Gables" still holds its own; will posterity put any of our stories beside it, no matter how accurate the dialect or how painstaking the portraiture?

But some of our writers of fiction have aimed at wider work and, whether consciously or unconsciously, have taken for their master Balzac, the great student of society, as a whole. A small group of realists is treating New York in the manner if not with the success that Balzac treated Paris. The influence of Tourguénief and of Tolstoy has also been felt by them, and they have done work distinctive in character and far reaching in its effects. The general public has received this work often with slight courtesy and has turned with more relish either to religious romances like "Ben Hur" or to stories of the Revolution that furnish appropriate reading for the Sons and Daughters of that prolific cataclysm, or to the specifically local fiction that has just been mentioned. "Give us a story that is a story", they say with some justice, and fall to reading a brilliant colonial romance. But will the brilliant romances or the local fiction of a contracted type give the form and pressure of the time to inquiring posterity as well as the less absorbing novels of our realists will? With the exception of the numerous and excellent short stories, an admirable form of fiction in which Americans have succeeded since the days of Irving, Poe, and Hawthorne, and in which the period just closing has probably done more than merely hold its own, is not the work of the realists the most typical product of the

period? The reader must answer these questions as he will, and, if he be wise, he will probably enjoy the good work his contemporaries are doing regardless of the permanence or impermanence of its value. He may, however, quite properly find it in his heart to regret that, in some notable cases, too great insistence upon theories of fiction has limited the appeal of great writers and, in one instance at least, has rendered the self-imposed exile of a distinguished novelist a matter of less regret to his country and of less loss to the literature of our period than it would otherwise have been.

Passing now to the higher but less cultivated form of imaginative literature known by the sacred name of poetry, we find that, as in so many other matters, we have closely paralleled recent British experience. Indeed one marked characteristic of the period we are considering is what may be termed the general intellectual leveling up of the two great branches of the Anglo-Saxon race. British books no longer dominate our market, and American books are no longer unwelcome in Great Britain. There is less disposition to colonial subservience in literary matters on our part and less reason for it, since modern British literature is not obviously superior to our own. As with us, so in Great Britain the republic of letters seems to be losing its aristocratic caste; bizarre youth plays its pranks there as here; fiction that is often good but seldom masterly is the dominant literary form, and poetry is cultivated by an increasing number of surprisingly well-trained but still minor poets.

This last phenomenon was some years since made the subject of an interesting article by the late Mr. Traill. He showed that Great Britain possessed at the time some half a hundred minor poets, any one of whom was capable of doing work that in technique at least would have seemed quite remarkable in any other epoch. Doubtless the number of these poets has increased in Great Britain, and, as I have recently said elsewhere, there is every reason to believe that there are just as many meritorious minor poets in this country. If the number of poets included in our list is less, this is because it seemed wise to count only those writers who had received a fair amount of public recognition. But anyone who has been called upon to review the annual output of verse in America for the last few years will readily admit that for minor poetry it often shows marked excellence of rhythm and

diction, distinct poetical temperaments on the part of the writers, conscientious study of the best models—in short most of the virtues of good poetry except the saving one of strongly original creative power.

If this saving virtue be demanded, it must be confessed that few living American or British poets will stand the test. With the deaths of the great New England poets and of Whitman we have been left with a few true and fairly distinguished poets and with many minor ones of varying excellence, but with no great ones, even in the limited sense in which "great" can be applied to any American poet. Every year or two a new poet is hailed by his friends, and the ear of the public twitches; but that is about all, even though the poet sells a few thousand copies of his book and makes his appearance on the lecture platform. Nor is anybody to blame for this state of things. The public is right in not being stirred by what is obviously not stirring, although this is not saying that it cannot be aroused to unnecessary enthusiasm over the rather brazen ring of some contemporary verse. On the other hand, the friends of our poets are right in standing by them loyally, for many of them have distinct merits, and it is not well that the cause of the fine art they are faithfully serving should want defenders. After all, neither a people nor a generation need feel ashamed if great poets are conspicuous by their absence. Our race has known poetic interregnums before, and the present one will probably cease ere long.

Meanwhile two facts are interesting. The first is that even in the most out-of-the-way localities young poets, often of distinct ability, are serving the muse in spite of public neglect and of the pressure of our complex life. These men are influencing their communities for good and will at least help to smooth the paths of great poets when they come. The second fact is the attention our two most original poets, Poe and Walt Whitman, are receiving. The Poe cult has been sufficiently discussed in these columns; that of Whitman has probably not been adequately recognized by orthodox criticism. That many of the claims made for our rugged chanter of the glories of democracy are extravagant, is doubtless true; but it is equally true that his voice has a carrying quality that makes it penetrate ears deaf to all other poetry. This is but another proof of the democratization of our literature, and it is a proof that the process has its advantages as well as its disad-

vantages. In this connection it is interesting to note that the natural Whitman has found one of his stoutest champions in a student of nature and a disciple of Thoreau, Mr. John Burroughs, whose work is typical of a kind of writing to which more and more Americans are devoting themselves and which is not unworthy of being mentioned in connection even with poetry itself.

The mention of Mr. Burroughs makes the transition to criticism easy, but the space remaining to me is limited and I must hasten to a conclusion. American criticism seems to be in a healthy state so far as the ability of our critics is concerned; but, as I have tried to show elsewhere, there is still much to be done toward attaining an adequate critical philosophy. We have critics who are learned, critics of admirable taste, and critics gifted with the power of interpreting literature to the masses, but few or none of large mould and speaking with authoritative voice. Perhaps this fact is due in part to the character of the age, which has no great respect for authority of any sort; but it is at least quite as much due to a lack of standards and philosophic methods on the part of the critics themselves. But when all is said, the generation that has produced such a book as Professor Lounsbury's "Studies in Chaucer," and that can point to at least a dozen successful essayists, can hold its own in criticism with any that has preceded it.

The same statement may be made with regard to history, biography, economics, and politics, and classical scholarship, so far as concerns the literary character of the chief recent works in these departments of thought. As our greatest critic died in Lowell, so probably our greatest historian died in Parkman, yet history in general has not merely not lost in the past twenty years but has actually gained. Owing to the influence of graduate schools in connection with our great universities, the spirit of accurate historical research has spread throughout the land. This research has been carried on in the main by specialists often deficient in literary gifts, but their methods have affected more ambitious and talented historians, with the result that a large number of elaborate historical works have been written within our period that would be a credit to any people and to any age. It is impossible to specify them all, but perhaps it will not be invidious to lay special stress upon the histories of Mr. John Fiske and of Mr. Henry Adams as illustrating the truth of what has just been said.

As for biography, economics, and classical scholarship still less can be said here. Recent work in these lines has been especially noteworthy and is likely to continue so — certainly in economics in which the public finds many reasons to take a vital interest. The taste for biographical reading is also growing, and in General Grant's "Memoirs" at least the generation has probably produced a classic. If the work of Professor Gildersleeve in the domain of Greek scholarship and culture is less popularly known, it is a comfort to some of us to think that we have in him an American fully worthy to rank with Professor Jebb himself.

Several topics remain that deserve discussion, but they can now be mentioned only. The last twenty years have seen great developments in periodical literature. The more expensive magazines have kept their standing, and cheap magazines, some good, some poor, have made literature popular as it never was before. The newspapers, too, are paying more attention to literature than ever and find that it pays to issue special literary supplements. Reviews of all sorts have been established, although in the main technical in character. Cheap libraries of books famous and infamous have had immense sales. Literary clubs of all sorts have fostered a taste for reading and have thus stimulated literary production. Publishers have adopted the larger business methods of the epoch and keep the presses running night and day. With their numerous series of all sorts they secure for new authors sales that would be otherwise impossible; but on the other hand they are insatiate in their demands upon all available writers, and the result is hasty, immature work that is demoralizing both to author and to reader. Publishers are also partly responsible for the fact that their popular books, which they naturally advertise in every way possible, often overshadow and prevent the sale of more deserving volumes. For this state of affairs the public is, however, just as much to blame, for it allows itself to be seized by a craze or fad and devours books eagerly which in a short time it is only too willing to forget. The end is not yet, nor can any man predict with certainty what effect modern conditions of literary productivity will have on at least the higher forms of literature. Will our children or grandchildren take fiction seriously if every week in the year sees a new novel reach the hundred thousand mark? But our concern is not with the future, and as for the immediate past it can be safely affirmed,

in conclusion, that whether the period we have just left behind us be a great one or not, it is certainly an interesting one, as well as one that proves that we have not fallen behind in letters as we have in politics. From Charles Brockden Brown to William Dean Howells is a distinct ascent; *facilis est descensus* from Thomas Jefferson to any living American statesman. Yet it seemed, years ago, that our true glory lay in the political sphere.

WILLIAM P. TRENT.

AMERICAN PUBLISHING AND PUBLISHERS.

"A thousand ages were blank, if books had not evoked their ghosts," wrote Bulwer; and THE DIAL's twenty years of life crowd themselves with the ghosts of many ages. Within the narrow confines of a score of years, progress has been made for which the elder world waited centuries in vain. Great as our material advance has been in the two closing decades of the century, our intellectual life has kept pace with it; and of this progress the best record and epitome is to be found in books.

The first glance backward is therefore one of congratulation. But the books, their authors and publishers, have come and many of them have gone, leaving the mind overstocked with memories and crowded with reflections. During THE DIAL's twenty years, the world of English letters has been robbed of the great names of Emerson, Longfellow, Whittier, Lowell, Holmes, Lanier, Whitman, and Parkman in America; of Tennyson, Browning, Arnold, Rossetti, and Morris in England; with scores of lesser authors in both lands. With these have passed away many of the men who made the reading public acquainted with these authors,—James T. Fields, Daniel S. Appleton, Henry O. Houghton, J. B. Lippincott, Fletcher Harper (second of that name), Charles Welford, James R. Osgood, Robert Clarke, Edward S. Mead, with other names of power and influence in the world of books. A score of years ago, books of poetry which attracted hundreds and even thousands of readers were appearing with every season; now, more books of verse are put forth than ever before, but the names their publishers used to conjure with are absent. In other fields it is the same. To join the present and that not remote past of which we speak, Messrs. Sted-

man, Aldrich, Stoddard, Warner, Mitchell, Howells, James, Stockton, and Eggleston still flourish in America; Mr. Swinburne, Mr. Austin Dobson, Sir Walter Besant, and several more, in England; but the times have changed, and many of the names now most prominent in current letters were unknown when *THE DIAL* began its course.

In 1880, a few great houses controlled the publishing business in America, and not many smaller houses flourished beside them. In other businesses centralization has since been the rule of growth, and this is no exception; yet the number of publishers seems to have multiplied even more than the number of books. The great houses survive—the longevity of authors, almost proverbial, seeming to extend to the men whose function it is to make the author possible in his relations with the public; and there is probably no commercial occupation which can show names more old and venerable than those which stand as monuments in the book-producing world. The repute of publishing as the trade most nearly resembling a learned profession is fully sustained by the new blood which has flowed into its veins. The older men, gone from the generation now passing, were men of sound character and cultivated minds, and their example has been followed, until, with rare exceptions, the American publisher stands well for American character and culture.

Twenty years have brought many changes in the artistic and mechanical sides of bookmaking, not all of them commendable, but on the whole tending toward a finer and wider development of art. Chiefly noticeable are the great increase in the quality and quantity of illustration brought about through improved pictorial processes, the increased attention paid to cover designs, calling into service a body of artists of which the older generation had not dreamed, and the frequent use of color, even to the point of landscape effects, on book covers. The use of color in illustration, particularly in magazines, is also a recent innovation, still somewhat in the stage of experiment. The introduction of machine devices in book production, such as the linotype substitute for type-setting, has been indulged in but cautiously by the best publishers, and whatever lowering of standards has come from these processes has been more than offset by improved faces of founders' type and by the common use of better grades of paper made possible by the cheapening of staple manufactures generally. In the form of

the best books, the tendency has been toward simple elegance instead of costly show. The elaborate and ponderous editions which weighted down the book-shelves of our fathers have mostly gone their way, and in their stead thrives the sort of modest but more artistic volume which challenges comparison with the work of the old master printers.

In the great book publishing houses of America it is peculiarly true that though the individual wither yet the firm is more and more. These are the houses that are built on broad and deep foundations, and though the members that compose them are taken one by one yet the house still stands. Even the very recent financial complications of two of the oldest and largest firms in the country, startling as they were, are not likely to affect seriously their future usefulness and prosperity, and thus while saddening are not discouraging. In the first number of *THE DIAL* there appeared the advertisements of just ten American publishing houses—a striking contrast to the nearly one hundred firms appearing in the present issue—and of these ten firms all but two are still in active existence, while there is hardly one of them but has lost meanwhile a prominent and active member. A few details, reviving memories of earlier days, may not be out of place in this necessarily brief survey.

The same day that saw the birth of *THE DIAL* saw also the separation of the historic firm of Houghton, Osgood & Co. into the two houses of Houghton, Mifflin & Co. and J. R. Osgood & Co.; the former continuing to stand distinctively for literary conservatism and classic simplicity of typography and ornament, while the latter devoted itself more particularly to the heliotype reproduction of old engravings of merit, foreshadowing those extensive photographic processes which have since made artistic illustration possible for almost every book. Both Mr. Houghton and Mr. Osgood, as also Mr. Fields their immemorial predecessor, have since passed away. Other Boston firms of our initial period were Little, Brown, & Co., tracing their origin back to 1784, and conducting business under the present name unchanged since 1847; Roberts Brothers, absorbed by the firm just named after the death of Mr. Niles of genial memory; Ginn, Heath & Co., since divided into the two houses of Ginn & Co. and D. C. Heath & Co., each since becoming far more extensive than the parent house; T. Y. Crowell & Co., lately removed to New York City; Lee & Shepard, continuing the firm

name unaffected by the death of Mr. Shepard and the retirement of Mr. Lee; D. Lothrop & Co., since incorporated as the Lothrop Publishing Company on the death of Mr. Daniel Lothrop; and Estes & Lauriat, who were succeeded in 1898 in their publishing department by Dana Estes & Co.

Turning to New York, we find the house of Harper & Brothers, already over sixty years old when THE DIAL was born, changing from a co-partnership to a corporation in 1896; Mr. Fletcher Harper, long an active member of this firm, being included in the death-roll of our score of years. D. Appleton & Co. had been a firm for over half a century, having been founded in 1825 by Daniel Appleton, father of the Daniel S. Appleton whose death occurred a few years ago. The firm of Charles Scribner's Sons also began many years before our period, taking its present name in 1878; the importing branch of its business was long done by the allied house of Scribner & Welford, which was merged with the parent house six years after the death of Mr. Welford in 1885. In 1870 Scribner's Sons established a magazine department under the name of Scribner & Co., from which descended one of the present great houses, The Century Co., in which Dr. Holland and Mr. Roswell C. Smith, now both deceased, were leading and vital spirits, and made the house famous not only for its magazines but for its monumental enterprises, of which the great Century Dictionary is a fit example. G. P. Putnam's Sons took their name as a co-partnership in 1873, incorporating in 1892, when their manufacturing business was turned over to an allied company called The Knickerbocker Press. Dodd, Mead & Co. took their present name in 1870, retaining it unchanged by the death of Mr. Mead in 1894. The business of Henry Holt & Co. was begun in 1866, the present name being taken in 1873, when the firm was already prominent and influential. Notable among the deaths of our period is that of Mr. Frederick Leypoldt, one of the founders of the house last named, and ever gratefully remembered for his American Catalogue and other serviceable bibliographical work. E. P. Dutton & Co., Fords, Howard, & Hulbert, John Wiley & Sons, A. S. Barnes & Co., A. C. Armstrong & Son, E. & J. B. Young & Co., and Baker & Taylor Co., are recalled among the firms in existence at THE DIAL's initial period.

In Philadelphia, J. B. Lippincott & Co. had been publishing under that title since 1855,

though tracing their origin back to 1798. After the death of Mr. J. B. Lippincott, in 1886, the firm was changed to a corporation, which continues its extensive business unchecked by the disastrous fire of a few months ago. The firm of Porter & Coates was well known long before THE DIAL was, becoming Henry T. Coates & Co. a few years ago. In Cincinnati, Robert Clarke & Co. had led an honorable existence for many years among the pioneers of Western publishing houses, continuing as a corporation since the recent death of Mr. Clarke, the founder. In Chicago, the trade has long been led by A. C. McClurg & Co., now a corporation, and the earliest publishers of THE DIAL. Also in Chicago at the beginning of our period were the well-known religious house of Fleming H. Revell Co., the law firm of Callaghan & Co., Henry A. Sumner & Co., since gone out of business, and S. C. Griggs & Co., whose business was transferred, on the death of Mr. Griggs, to Scott, Foresman & Co., who still continue it. Rand, McNally & Co., Laird & Lee, C. H. Sergel Company, H. S. Stone & Co., and the Open Court Publishing Co., have all entered the active field since THE DIAL began its career.

That other houses besides those we have named were in existence in this country at the beginning of the period covered by our sketch, is only too probable; as also that other names of honor and influence have been taken from the publishing world, and are borne in memory, though not set down in recollections so disconnected and fragmentary. But if it has been found impossible, within the necessary limits, to include all the old established houses of a score of years ago, what can be done toward mentioning the houses that have since come into being? A novel feature of recent years has been the appearance of a number of firms which were, somewhat distinctively, composed of young men,—ardent, confident, full of enterprise, often with original ideas of considerable value, sometimes expecting too much of these ideas and hoping that with them they would revolutionize or conquer the publishing world. They have not revolutionized it; not all of them have even made themselves a place in it. But they have not been without their influence, and a certain improvement in artistic taste and a quickening of ideas may doubtless be traced to the influence of these young men.

Prominent among houses established since the founding of THE DIAL may be mentioned the firm of White, Stokes & Allen, now con-

ducting its extensive business under the more recent corporate name of the Frederick A. Stokes Company; while latest, in point of time, is the young Hercules firm of Doubleday & McClure Co., founded in 1897 and growing so vigorously that one house soon became too small to hold all the members, and there resulted the firm of Doubleday, Page & Co., the McClure firm still continuing, all three big with life and enterprise. The newer comers who have won distinction and made their impression in the publishing field are of course too numerous to mention in the limited space at our disposal. A word might be given to certain names which suggest some noteworthy modern innovations in book production,—such names as Thomas B. Mosher of Portland, Maine, Elbert Hubbard and his "Roycroft Press," and the "Brothers of the Book," all indicating a certain tendency which is not without significance to the reading and the publishing worlds.

It would be interesting, did space and time permit, to consider the growth and present condition of the subscription book trade, but this is hardly within the scope of this survey. Neither are text-books, properly speaking, though this field of publication has had an enormous development in the past twenty years, as shown by the organization and prosperity of the great American Book Company and other large concerns. The extension of many of the religious publication societies, practically every denomination now having its publishing establishment, into the field of general publishing, is also a feature to be mentioned. Finally, if we notice the increased activity of the various University presses—of Harvard, Columbia, Pennsylvania, Johns Hopkins, Chicago, and other of the large institutions of learning and culture—we shall see how varied in interest and how vast in total is the book output of the United States.

Even an incomplete survey of American publishing interests for the past twenty years must not omit to mention International Copyright, which was adopted by the United States in 1891, and must have had some important effects upon the trade, though just what these effects have been no one can very definitely say. Whether or not it has done all that its more zealous advocates had hoped, it was unquestionably a policy of justice, and has undoubtedly been of help to American authors both at home and in England. The American market has become an object of greater interest to the English publishing houses, an in-

creasing number of whom have found it to their advantage to maintain their business on both sides of the sea. The chief example of this class is of course the great house of Macmillan & Co., whose American business has had an enormous development under the management of Mr. George P. Brett, who succeeded his father, Mr. George E. Brett, upon the death of the latter some ten years ago. The well-known houses of Longmans, Green, & Co., of Thomas Nelson's Sons, of John Lane, of the Oxford University Press, and of George Routledge & Sons, Ltd., are also to be included among the active and influential firms that are international in character, whose position makes it easier for an author to procure the introduction of his work to those who speak the same tongue everywhere, whether in England, America, or the colonies. One of the results of this has been the enormous demand for novels immediately upon their production, testifying in a remarkable manner to the closeness of the tie that binds the English and American reading public together. The first American book for which a large demand was had was "Uncle Tom's Cabin." But this sale was of slow growth, and for reasons other than literary. Not long after THE DIAL's birth, Mrs. Humphry Ward attracted the attention of the reading public in both England and America with "Robert Elsmere"; but here again, though the story had merit as literature, its success was due largely to the theological questions involved. But Dr. Mitchell's "Hugh Wynne" attained an international vogue which can hardly be referred to other than a literary cause; and this is true, successively, of Mr. Winston Churchill's "Richard Carvel," Mr. Ford's "Janice Meredith," and Miss Johnston's "To Have and To Hold," all of which deal with colonial and revolutionary times, of interest, apparently, to the English-speaking race.

Taking leave of the past as seen in this inadequate survey, we turn to the future which ever lies bright before us. So far as appears to even the experienced eye, there has never been a period of greater promise in the publishing trade of the United States, and the revival waited for during many weary months shows no sign of waning,—on the contrary, the indications point to a memorable series of years, in which the author, the publisher, and the rapidly-growing reading public will combine to give the publishing trade in America a period of unprecedented prosperity.

FRANCIS F. BROWNE.

AMERICAN BOOKSELLING AND BOOKSELLERS.

When *THE DIAL* started its effort for the betterment of things literary, twenty years ago, its projectors had plans of their own, and ideals to be achieved, and though progress has been made and results reached, still it can be seen that contentment will not be had until more and more progress is secured. Truly, it is the law of life and will not be denied. Twenty years ago is not so very far back, and yet what a crowding of events there has been, and what a multitude of changes have come to pass since then! In printing we have passed from the staid and plain and solid, to the brilliant and many-tinted or more deeply colored; and coupled with the changes there has been such attention to the details and niceties of the art that unlimited admiration has followed, and rightly too.

It may be said at once that bookselling in America is more of a science to-day than ever before; that the scale on which it is conducted is broader and higher, and the lines laid more intelligently and to better purpose. The finer and better equipped bookstores are furnished with stocks such as the world never before saw collected together for mercantile purposes, and the books are displayed in such inviting ways as to attract the buyer to first examine and then to purchase. And this is done without intent to trick or inveigle buyers, by artifice or design, to buy that which they do not need or would not otherwise invest in; the individual items are put in convenient places to be handled, in assortments that are intelligible to any observant mind, and classified so that the whole line of any one class in the stock itself can be gone over by the customer, and he readily find the special book he may be seeking, and many more covering the same field. It follows, of course, that customers are oftentimes astonished and delighted at finding books of equal value with the ones they came to buy, and they go happily away with one or more additional volumes to fortify them in their reading or study of the subjects involved. It can be seen how by this method the bookseller is benefitted, for it not only increases the present sales from his stock, but the customer who finds himself so aided in one case is pretty certain to return in the future, as often as he can possibly do so.

Another result in such an arrangement of stock is that the clerks become more and more

intelligent and helpful. The very assorting of stock in classes leads to definiteness of understanding as to what books of value there are on a given subject, and, when that is known, to the other and better point of which of them all is the best on its topic. It then only remains to suit the supply to the particular needs of the customer on the subject in hand, to completely satisfy the ideal requirements for which bookstores should be established.

In the larger and finer class of bookstores referred to, as may be imagined, it is necessary that the salesmen be not only well posted, but cultivated to a high degree in the expert knowledge of their craft. Even to the most painstaking of them this requires time and perseverance and concentration of thought; and it is a pleasure to record that there are now in this country a considerable number who can rightly be called masters in their field. To those of the readers of *THE DIAL* who travel, it will only be necessary to make clear the style of bookstore to which reference is made, to mention, in New York, Messrs. Charles Scribner's Sons, Messrs. G. P. Putnam's Sons, and Messrs. Dodd, Mead & Co.; in Boston, Messrs. Little, Brown, & Co. and Charles E. Lauriat Co.; in Cleveland, Burrows Brothers Company and Helman-Taylor Company; and last but not least, in Chicago, Messrs. A. C. McClurg & Co. Many more could be mentioned, but these will suffice to prove that the highest intelligence is bestowed, and an almost unlimited amount of capital invested, in these businesses; that to every such establishment is given the greatest care in detail; and that the results achieved are only secured by taxing to the utmost the energies and attention of those in charge. All honor is due to such men, and should be liberally bestowed by those to whose wants they cater, and for whose edification and gratification they give their onerous, though often delightful, labors. The buyers of books should appreciate this, and should be ready to pay for such services that which will afford a profit commensurate with the benefits bestowed. In the larger cities this is recognized and granted, and the best that the world produces can consequently be found on the shelves of the bookstores.

In bookselling, as everybody knows, there are differing phases brought about by locality or other circumstances. A college town bookstore, for instance, will be looked to for technical books covering fields other than those fixed for study, and beyond or in advance of

them. These are such as will be recommended by professors for post-graduates for private study, to those who wish to go beyond the limits of any college or university course. That the bookseller should have these goes without saying; but it must be remembered by buyers that their purchases of these must be made of their local dealer, or he will ultimately avoid keeping them. It is such stock that rapidly uses up capital, and without the constant support of the local buyer it will prove a source of loss to the dealer, rather than profit. To give him that support is his just due, and the withholding of it is that which sometimes causes buyers to inveigh (causelessly) against the bookseller. Every bookseller will keep a full stock if it will pay him to do so; and the more prompt and ready the purchasers, the more varied and complete will be the stock.

The booksellers in the smaller cities have had to face several changes. In not every case has the town or city grown larger, and where it has, it has not necessarily meant a proportionate increase of book buyers. The dealer has striven, under changing conditions, to keep pace with changing tastes and, where possible, to build up an enlarged trade. Purchases have been larger, but expenses heavier in proportion, and the profit on the increased amount has often been less than of old. This, of course, has been discouraging to some, and enterprise has been nipped in the bud and effort to overcome the conditions has ceased. Inasmuch as the population of this country is sure to increase everywhere, it is to be hoped that those thus affected by belittlement of results will soon find a proper reward for their enterprise and labor, and be encouraged to continue until success is renewed.

A striking feature of recent times is the popularity of certain historical novels, some of which have reached sales of unusually high numbers. Of "Richard Carvel" there have been sold 430,000 copies; "David Harum," 500,000; "To Have and to Hold," 200,000; "Janice Meredith," 250,000; "Red Rock," 84,000; and the call for them still continues unabated. The definite reason for these phenomenal sales is not easily ascertained. The books themselves each have merit of a high order, and the same public is appealed to in each case by their publishers, who advertise in about the same journals. But the fact remains that these volumes are read by their hundreds of thousands of readers, and have become the topic of discussion in all quarters. They are,

for the time, "the fashion," and there is no knowing when the public will cease to give them attention for some newer idols. It would be an interesting question to settle, on behalf of good literature, if by the sale of such items a maximum could be named for the sale of a genuinely high-class novel, in this land of seventy-five millions of people.

For more than the particular twenty years with which we are especially concerned, there has been a disturbing element entering into the bookselling situation, to the great and increasing discomfort of those whose living has depended solely on bookselling, namely, the sale of books in "Department" stores; more strictly, the sale of them there at "cut" prices. It would be folly to go over the discussion again in the ways so frequently used. The subject is threadbare, and certainly is unpleasant in many ways. It may be said, however, that better conditions exist to-day than formerly, and that it is possible that some routine may be followed that will bring a measure of relief.

The complaint has been just, that in the beginning, and for most of the period, the Department stores have offered popular books which were leaders in their time at wholesale prices to retail buyers, and at times at lower prices than they could be bought for by the bookseller. The harm came because the bookseller was deprived of his rightful profit on books that were selling freely, and was compelled to eke out a living on the items that sold one by one. In the Department stores the popular books have been sold without profit, and sometimes at a loss, that these books might be used as "leaders" or inducements to get patrons to come into their stores. A profit was then secured through the customer's purchases of other goods, on which a margin could be made. The result was that many men were driven out of the book business, and others were compelled to change the proper methods of a lifetime to meet conditions thus wrongly thrust upon them. We pass all the details of this to say that it seems that to-day the book-buying public are using the bookstores more freely; that they find that the cheaper books offered them are not of the quality that they wish to have in their libraries; that therefore they seek the better ones where they can be had; and that many of the Department stores are thrown more upon the sales of their "cheap" volumes. It remains true, however, that every few months a furore is created by some De-

partment store offering the particular popular book of the moment at a very low figure, with the resulting demoralization of all local trade in the item itself. It looks as though the evil cannot be cured wholly, but it also has appeared of late that the tendency is towards less "cutting," and that the Department stores are finding it to their benefit to secure a better average price on even the "popular" items. In some localities they are even agreeing not to cut prices below an average rate, the latter being quite reasonable by comparison with the extreme cuts made before.

To illustrate the loss entailed on *somebody* by cut prices, an example might be taken of "Richard Carvel," of which 400,000 copies have been sold.

The retail price of the book is	\$1.50
It sells in many Department stores at	1.14
When sold at an extreme "cut" price has been81
Which shows a difference <i>per copy</i> of33

Multiply the whole edition by that difference, and we have a loss of profit of \$132,000 on that one book alone. If the Department stores sold half the edition at the cut price named, they have given to the retail buyers \$66,000, or if only one-fourth the edition, \$33,000 in amount. It is not claimed that these quantities are known to have been sold at the lowest price quoted, *but the ratio of loss is true*, no matter what the quantity may be, and it is manifest folly to sacrifice stock in any such way.

The parties effecting the larger sale of books, next to the retail bookseller, are the "Jobbers," and of them only carefully chosen words should be said. In earlier times, if one should have tried to set down their names, he would have found almost a legion of them. Every large city had at least one such dealer who could be classed under that head, since he distinctly made efforts to supply his fellow booksellers with stock that he did not expect to use in his own retailing department. To a degree such dealers are still to be found in all sections, but owing to radical changes in the extending of population in some cases, and in the changing of people to larger centres in others, two results have been produced. The larger city booksellers can buy stock in quantities great enough to secure bottom rates, direct from the publishers, thus doing away with the need of the middle-man (the jobber). On the other hand, the smaller booksellers have been compelled to look for very small quantities of many publishers' books from fewer jobbers, and thus the jobbers have temporarily found their number

of customers increased and they themselves obliged to keep larger stocks to supply the larger variety of trade catered to. It can be seen that this latter method of stocking-up must drive out, as it has, the jobber of smaller means, and permit the one with larger means to take the trade. This has come about, and to-day there are comparatively few jobbers in the field. Though there are others, essentially the jobbers of to-day are Messrs. A. C. McClurg & Co., of Chicago, The Baker & Taylor Co., The American News Co., and The H. B. Claffin Co., of New York, and Messrs. DeWolfe, Fiske & Co., of Boston. It is to be hoped that these concerns reap a proper reward for their toil and risk. It is probably the most exhausting branch of the trade, requiring large capital with which to purchase stock, unusual wisdom and discrimination in selecting and buying, and, as can easily be shown, giving but the slightest margin of profit with a very large ratio of risk. Truly it requires great courage on the part of new men to enter it, and gives no adequate profit for the expenditure of energy and money in conducting it. The members of the book trade, as a whole, can thank their good fortune that they are able to secure the services of the painstaking men who now supply their wants in this line, and they should pay them liberally for the efforts they put forth to fill their orders.

JOHN H. DINGMAN.

AMERICAN LIBRARIES.

The present status of American Libraries, and their significance and value in our busy life, can best be understood by a brief glance at their development. The school and the library have been closely connected as a part of our educational equipment, and have come up through stages of development which are closely parallel.

We have, broadly speaking, first, the college and other institutions for higher education; second, the private and endowed schools for secondary education; and finally the free public school. On the other hand, from the beginning, we have had the college and other special libraries for the scholar; then came the proprietary and subscription library, of the type of the Philadelphia Library Company, founded in 1732; and finally the Library free to all, of which the oldest is the Boston Public

Library, founded in 1852. Thus the college library is as old as the college itself, the first being that of Harvard, 1636; the subscription library is well along in its second century; and the public library is a little less than a half century old.

The first general statistics of libraries in America were published by the Commissioner of Education in 1876. At that time there were 12,000,000 volumes in 2,500 libraries. In 1896 there were 33,000,000 in 4,000; and, as we know that the growth has been rapid since that time, it is fair to assume that there are now in the libraries of the country about 40,000,000 volumes.

This wonderful growth has been due in part to fostering legislation. Until recently this was mainly permissive, granting charters, and authorizing but not requiring the levy of taxes for library support. Some recent legislation gives active assistance by means of State Library Commissions and travelling libraries, and finally, in 1895, New Hampshire passed the first law making the establishment and support of libraries compulsory, thus putting them on the same footing as the schools.

The growth of libraries has been much promoted by many generous benefactions. Notable among these are the Astor, Lenox, and Tilden gifts, now united in one foundation as the New York Public Library; the gift of John Crerar, \$3,000,000, and of W. N. Newberry, \$2,000,000, to Chicago; of George Peabody, \$1,400,000, and of Enoch Pratt, \$1,200,000, to Baltimore; and of Benjamin Rush, \$1,500,000, to Philadelphia. Far exceeding any of these in amount are the many gifts of Mr. Andrew Carnegie. In addition to his numerous previous donations and foundations, Mr. Carnegie has given since the beginning of 1899 about \$7,000,000 as his contribution to library extension in America. Most of the gifts mentioned have been made within the past twenty years, and in addition to these we might enumerate a score of others varying from \$50,000 to \$500,000, and many smaller ones.

This rapid growth of the older collections has required, and has in part received, more adequate housing. Twenty years ago the old Boston Public Library building was regarded as one of the best library buildings in the country, the Chicago Public Library occupied quarters in the City Hall, and the Library of Congress had poorly lighted rooms in the Capitol, crowded to the last degree of incon-

venience. Now the Congressional Library, which is really the National Library, and should be so designated, occupies one of the most noble structures on the face of the planet, by far the largest and finest building ever erected for library purposes. Boston has fronting on Copley Square, and Chicago looking out on the lake front, the greatest Public Library buildings in the country. The cost of the Congressional Library building was \$6,300,000; that of Boston cost \$2,300,000; and that of Chicago \$2,000,000; in round numbers, exclusive of the sites. Milwaukee has just completed a building costing \$500,000; and in various cities, East and West, are library buildings costing from \$100,000 to \$300,000.

The most noteworthy American college library building is that of Columbia University, occupying a commanding location on Morningside Heights, overlooking the great city and the Hudson. It was the gift of the president of the university, as a memorial of his father. Princeton, Cornell, and other universities and colleges, have fine modern buildings. All of those mentioned, with the exception of the last one, have been completed within the past ten years.

I have thus far spoken only of that which is outward and visible,—the buildings, the books, the financial support. This wonderful increase in these material and measurable things has been accompanied by a scarcely less wonderful development and improvement of methods, an enlargement of the library field in extent, and an increase in the variety and value of its various activities. A comparison will best show this. Less than twenty years ago, when the first meeting of the American Library Association was held, the need of any special training for library work was not yet recognized, nor was there any provision for it. Now there are four well established library schools, those of the State University of New York, the State University of Illinois, the Pratt and the Drexel Institutes. These give courses of one, or two years, devoted exclusively to the study of library methods, and the necessary technical training. Their graduates may be found in libraries in all parts of the country, and they have had great influence in elevating the standard of library work. When the first Association meeting was held, most librarians were using their own methods of charging, classification, and cataloguing, many of them cumbrous, unreliable, and ineffective. There were no recognized standards, or generally approved meth-

ods. Now, the principles of library accounting are as well understood, and taught as definitely and exactly, as commercial book-keeping. Now there are approved systems of library classification, to which guides are published, and which are generally adopted. Then, however broad and thorough the scholarship of the cataloguer, much of his work failed to reach its full measure of usefulness from the lack of a well understood plan. Now systematic work, according to carefully devised rules, gives certainty and uniformity of result, and much greater usefulness. Libraries of all classes have taken part in making these great improvements and have shared in their benefits.

Along with this development of method has come another still more important change,—that from a comparatively passive condition to one of great activity. The older librarian was well content to wait for people to come to him. The modern librarian attracts people to the library, or sends it to them. The older librarian thought the full measure of his duty consisted in taking care of the library, opening it at certain hours, and permitting people to use it, as well as they were able, under regulations which were often serious restrictions. The whole tendency has been toward greater freedom, and attractiveness, and usefulness for the largest possible number.

In college libraries this tendency has shown itself in less rigid rules, longer hours of opening, extending the use of the library to others than their own students, and in the introduction of the seminar.

In public libraries the hours have been increased to suit the convenience of readers; the age limit for children has been lowered or entirely removed, and much is done in other ways to make the library useful to the young. Special rooms for children, both for reading and for the issue of books, are an essential part of our modern equipment. Children's needs and tastes are studied, and special collections of books and reading lists prepared for them. Bulletin boards, with pictures, and reading lists upon the various holidays, and other timely topics are posted. Children's Library Leagues for promoting the care for and reading of good books, are organized in many cities. Close relations are maintained with the schools. The librarian is informed as to the courses of study, and part of the buying is directed to meet the needs of both teacher and pupil, for collateral reading. Books are issued both from the library direct and from deposits

in the school buildings. The library also supplies the needs of the various clubs for literary work.

Another important change has been in the direction of allowing greater freedom of access to the shelves of the circulating departments of our larger libraries. Formerly these were scrupulously closed off from the public rooms, and it was necessary to select from a catalogue and wait for the book to be brought by an attendant, as is, unfortunately, still the practice in a majority of our large libraries. In a few, however, of the largest and most successful city libraries, the shelves of the circulating departments have been thrown open with the greatest freedom to all borrowers and readers, with the most favorable results. The increased value of a library conducted on this plan cannot be estimated. Twenty years ago the suggestion that the shelves of a large city library might be thrown open to all users, would have been regarded as visionary, impracticable, and altogether undesirable. Now it is generally accepted by librarians as a desirable thing, and with proper building arrangements, and with certain obvious exceptions, is regarded as entirely feasible. I have spoken in this of the circulating departments especially, as greater freedom is generally permitted in the reference departments. The work of subscription and proprietary libraries has shared some of the changes noted above. It has occurred in many instances that a subscription library has been changed into a free library.

Another important extension of the work has been in the establishment of branches and stations in our cities and larger towns. The reason for this is obviously the same as that which dots our cities with school-houses. It is as impossible for people from all sections of a great city to get any adequate supply of books from one main library, as it would be for them to send their children all to one school; hence, the necessity for the branch or station. It is a positive injustice to tax a whole city for library purposes, without providing reasonably equal facilities for its different sections.

Another important phase of library extension is the work of library commissions in giving advice and active help to libraries already established, or by lending travelling libraries, which meet an immediate need in some special neighborhood, and often lead to the establishment of permanent libraries.

If I have dwelt principally in the foregoing on public library work, it is because that

seems to be so broad as to include in some of its phases, if the work is thoroughly done and all its possibilities understood, all library work. The librarian of the village, of the university, and of the city, despite the difference of circumstance, have recognized the essential unity of their work; and it is this recognition which has rendered possible that cordial coöperation among all librarians that has brought about the improvements in methods, and the enlargement and success of the work.

Let us sum up briefly the results of the past twenty years. During that period libraries have much more than doubled in volume, that is, they have made a larger growth than in all the previous years of their history. All of the greater library buildings in the country have been built within that time. The income for library purposes has greatly increased. The most valuable laws providing for library extension have been passed within that time. A great share of all the large library donations have been made within that time, and a large proportion within a very few years. While it has been a period of growth it has been just as definitely a period of organization, a period in which systems have been devised, and standards fixed.

We have thus far dealt with the material and systematic phases of library growth, but even more important is it to inquire what has been the spirit and tendency of the work, what is its value and significance in the life of to-day, and what are its possibilities.

The practical reason for the maintenance of libraries is the same as that for schools, namely, the necessity of education for a self-governing people. Libraries, like schools, are educational institutions, whose work tends to make better citizens. This is the only sufficient reason for their public support, the only strong attraction for private beneficence. They do this by furnishing books which give practical instruction in the arts of life, which inform as to civic duties, which appeal to the emotions and feed the intellectual and spiritual nature. They are broader than the schools in this scope, as they begin with the children, go with them through school and college, and give them the opportunity to carry their education through life. The underlying motive, the compelling force, which has induced this open-handed expenditure of money, this intelligent and faithful work, is a generous free spirit, ever seeking to enlarge the area of freedom and enlightenment,

earnest, active, and aggressive, with the kindly aggressiveness of the missionary.

Within the past twenty years, libraries have come to fill a much larger place in our social life in many ways. The location of the new library of Columbia, as the centre of the group of university buildings, is significant of the place the college library is coming to occupy as the centre of college life and activity. So the public library should, and I believe will, become the centre of the intellectual life of the city, the common meeting-ground, the storehouse and study for all who are active for the welfare of the city in any of its various interests. It will furnish rooms for scientific and literary societies and study clubs, and will give facilities for all educational work not provided for by the regular schools with which it will work in close harmony. The great growth of libraries during the past two decades has been a rapidly accelerating one, greater in the past few years than ever before. If this continues, the growth of the first twenty years of the next century will be much greater than the past. This will mean grander opportunities, more weighty responsibilities. As the success of the past has clearly been due to the coöperation of librarians with each other, so the greater work of the library in the future may be done by bringing about a broader coöperation. In addition to its own direct work for education, may it not offer a common meeting-ground, and bring about a closer coöperation of all the forces which make for the betterment of social conditions, for higher civilization?

WILLIAM H. BRETT.

AMERICAN PERIODICALS.

When one is asked, as I have been, to write of periodical literature, and especially about American periodicals of the twenty years during which *THE DIAL* has existed, one has a vision of a multitudinous swarm buzzing out from the press rooms. Some of them are ephemera and some come to stay with us. There are glimpses of illustrations, rude and good; pen and ink drawings of lay figures which seem to have been cut out with the jaggedest blade of an old jack-knife; wash drawings of merit and demerit, occasionally leering towards the realm of Anthony Comstock; much red, yellow, blue, and green; and occasionally nothing but letterpress. So many have come and gone! A list of them would

make dreary reading unless it could be accompanied by the secret history of some of the failures, in which event it might be amusing although it would oftener be pathetic; for almost all these efforts are sincere and many of them worthy endeavors to command success. Most of them, it is true, seek simply the mysterious pathway to the public's pocket. Their founders and conductors are ready to do anything to gratify what they think is the public taste, or lack of taste. They will flash upon the ignorant eye in color vivid enough to destroy a very fine optic nerve, or they will conduct youth behind the scenes whither the vulgar young are always ready, perhaps eager, to be led. Clever men will prostitute their talents, and seemingly respectable men will sell their consciences and principles in order to find that mazy pathway. It seems to be the faith of the second-rates that large and profitable circulations must be gained by spicing torpid minds into activity—the pleasure of any emotion or of anything like an intellectual sensation being so unusual, and therefore so attractive, to large numbers of the community that they are willing to pay many small sums for it. The public is a good deal above these second-rates, however, as we shall see in our brief progress. It may be true enough that the largest circulations are gained by intellectual pandering, but it does not follow that pandering is the most profitable form of editorial, or even of publishing, activity. There are vulgar periodicals, and books, too,—indeed there is no monopoly of vulgarity and ignorance in the realms of literature,—that have a basis, or a grain, of sound sense or of usefulness—like a column of useful household suggestions, or an occasional intelligent opinion,—and perhaps the makers of these would be astonished to know how large a part of the popularity of their product is due to its utility or its integrity. It is not true, of course, that all who are earning the wages of debasement—whether the degradation be ethical or æsthetic—are thereby selling intellects or consciences. There are some who are just dull, and these occasionally are moved by the environment of respectability into which they have been born, or married, to endeavor to be important. They produce for their social atmosphere, as the vulgarians produce for theirs, and with the same unconsciousness of the existence of any region of mental or moral activity outside of that of their own vestry room, or debating club, or sewing circle. Their editorial per-

formance is imparted by the spirit of the vicinage, like their religious observances, their serious church-going faces and walking sticks. Think as they may about it, however, their conduct is not nearly so respectable as that of the sixteenth century Italian cynics who used to thrust their tongues into their cheeks of Sunday mornings and remark to one another: "Come, let us conform to the popular error!" But what ineffable attainder of wrong and injury has their dull efforts worked! From how many promising minds has the light been excluded because of the repulsive dullness of their attempted importance!

Having uttered this by way of notice of the vulgar ephemera, and other commercial designs upon the public pocket, I shall proceed to say what I think is the prevailing evidence of these twenty years as to the tendency of periodical literature. It is difficult to compress a large collection of facts into a short definition, and I cannot enter into critical comparisons for fear that lack of space may lead not only to seeming but to real injustices. The obvious fact, however, in the history of periodicals of the last twenty years, is that there is in this country an increasing demand for sound information and discussion on literature, art, the bewildering achievements of modern science, and on public questions.

The story magazine we know. It existed before 1880; and the story-telling weekly existed then, too, but as it was then it has largely gone. Perhaps it is because the ten-cent magazines give so much more for so much less that the "New York Ledger" has become a monthly, while some of its old-time associates are not making so much noise as we once heard from them. There are better stories now than we used to have, and the new romancers, who write on history instead of hasheesh, are not only more improving, but are much more entertaining. The weekly story paper must be still in demand, however strongly convinced Mr. Bonner was that the seventh day periodical had outlived its time, for we have the "Saturday Evening Post," of Philadelphia, and it is flourishing. This change in the weekly field is also due to the appearance of the Sunday illustrated annex to the daily newspaper. It is ambitiously dubbed a Sunday magazine—and it is, in most cases, a veritable magazine of explosives, dimly related to art and letters, and possessing some of the noxious effects of lyddite, if one may compare immaterial to material stench. There are some

illustrated supplements, it is true, not open to the lyddite charge. They have been made possible by the development of the cheap processes by means of which photography has become so essentially the basis of modern illustrative work. Cheap paper and cheap pictures are the causes of these weekly efforts on the part of the daily press, and there is little complaint to be made of some of them. When the "color schemes" of some of the Sunday spectacles are worked out, perhaps they will all be tolerable. For one thing we shall have eventually to thank them; they will greatly advance the art of making the illustrated weeklies like "Harper's," "Collier's," and "Leslie's." These papers must go back to the artist, and some of them are already showing evidence that they recognize the fact that they can compete with the illustrated supplements only in quality.

It is not, however, in these periodical presentations of the arts that please the eye and the fancy, that the interesting movement in periodical literature has taken place. When THE DIAL was born, the New York "Nation" was easily the first among the weekly papers of the country, easily first in its knowledge of its subjects, in the great ability with which it discussed the political, social, economic, literary, and artistic questions of the time. Nothing so thorough or so clever as its book reviews had been regularly published in this country. Here was a journal of which we could all be proud, even in our wrath, and even when we rejoiced in discovering that it was not infallible. It became the fashion. People who liked good reading on important subjects took it and enjoyed it, and people who liked to be in the intellectual fashion cut its leaves and had it on the centre table. Therefore it paid dividends, and became an inspiration and example to editors and publishers who had not otherwise attained to a comprehension of the richness of the intellectual mine. The "Nation" exists to-day, and is as interesting as it would be had it still a separate and an independent life, but, unfortunately for its urban influence at least, it is largely a re-print of the "New York Evening Post," so that the feast it has to offer is in the nature of a *réchauffée*.

The "Nation's" influence has been of surprising value, and it supplements the wonderfully increased activity of the universities and colleges. When we reflect that there now come about as many graduates each year from these institutions as there used to be undergraduates

in all four classes thirty years ago, we ought readily to understand why so many periodicals are seeing and realizing the advantage of endeavoring to attract the friendship and support of minds that do not need spice to arouse them into action. There is now an encouraging recognition of the public's demand for intelligent presentation of the important facts and questions of the world's current history. It shows that editors and publishers are not really very far behind the educated public, as well as that the educated public is increasing in numbers and exactions. Within the twenty years, the old and new monthlies, the "Century," "Harper's," "Scribner's," the "Atlantic," the "Cosmopolitan," and "McClure's," have been considering subjects which are topics of the daily press, and which are important. But this reaching out after subjects that, in the horrible and horrifying modern English, are called "newsy," is best shown by some of the important of the religious weeklies, like the "Independent," the "Outlook," and the "Churchman." Doubtless there is quite as much of essential piety in these papers as when they were almost exclusively conveyers of church news and theological speculation. There is distinctly less of sermonizing in them and much less of spiritual theorizing. The truth is recognized that a large number of good people want to know what is going on in the world that is of real interest and real importance. Some of them live beyond the boundaries of the daily paper. Some do not like the confusion of the large daily, or its idea of the relative importance of crime and lechery to the really momentous achievements and questionings of men. They like the clear statement and sound perspective of the events of the week, which they find in these weekly papers, and they like also clear and well-considered discussion.

There is no doubt that the periodical literature of the country has greatly increased in importance, and what we call weight, in the last twenty years, and that the tendency is towards still greater importance. The growth in literary and scientific periodical literature is clear evidence of this. Now we have THE DIAL itself, of which I must speak, however much I may dislike to flatter it to its very face, but its successful existence, in a field little known in the East, hardly known at all twenty years ago, is a revelation, a most gratifying revelation, of the profit awaiting those who are willing and capable of doing serious work for the edification of people who know books, and who

want to read intelligent discussion and clear thinking on topics that are worth while—that give pleasure and mental and moral stimulation to rational beings. In New York we have the "Critic," the "Book Buyer," and the "Bookman," and the Saturday supplement of the "Times," giving us news and gossip of literary men and women and criticism of what they have done. And in different paths than that of pure literature and science, in the plastic arts, in painting, in architecture, in economics, we have a periodical literature that I venture to say could not have found needed sustenance in the days of more than twenty years ago. The spirit of the times, so far as periodical literature is concerned, seems to me to be represented by the "Review of Reviews," which stands for something more than the "quick-lunch-for-busy-men" principle, although that feature of it is of sound material, the best that the markets, domestic and foreign, afford. We have a whole host of magazines and weeklies informing and teaching us as to special and general interests—like the "Political Science Quarterly," "Journal of Economics," "Popular Science Monthly," "Science," the "Forum," the revived "North American Review," "Good Government," and the "International Monthly." The very existence of these, the success of many of them, show that the tendency of periodical literature in our day is towards the satisfaction of a distinctly higher and finer standard than was dreamed of by most of the magazines and weeklies of twenty years ago. Perhaps if any subjects are demanding more attention than others, they are those of political administration, of good government, of municipal socialism, and of economics as they relate to social and individual prosperity and comfort. Notwithstanding the gains of the literary periodicals, the marked growth has been in the literature of practical subjects, and this is in harmony with the national character. Periodical literature is taking a livelier and more intelligent interest in the larger affairs of life, and the history of the last twenty years points to a much finer growth for the future, to a notable development of the journals and magazines not wholly devoted to practical questions, to more and higher literary and art criticism, and to perhaps richer expressions of idealism. All of which is full of instruction to the publishers who act on the principle that only the vulgar or the stupid commonplace "go" with the American public.

HENRY LOOMIS NELSON.

AMERICAN EDUCATION.

The years 1880 and 1900 have no especial educational significance, except that 1900 rounds out the century, and so furnishes a fitting opportunity to review past history, to summarize results, to take an account of the present situation, and to forecast the future, while 1880, of course, we take as a starting point in order to see what progress has been made during THE DIAL's twenty years. We do not propose, however, to take advantage of this opportunity in any particular sense, but shall use the dates merely as labels, marking two cross sections of the general educational movement of the country that are sufficiently far apart to present data for instructive comparison. We shall begin with the public schools.

	1879-80.	1897-98.
Total population	50,155,783	72,737,100
Number of persons 5 to 18 years of age	15,065,767	21,458,204
Number of different pupils enrolled in schools	9,867,505	15,038,636
Per cent of population enrolled	19.67	20.68
Per cent of persons 5-18 years of age enrolled	65.50	70.08
Average daily attendance	5,144,143	10,286,092
Ratio of same to enrollment	62.3	68.4
Average length of school, in days	130.3	143.1
Average number of days attended for each person, 5 to 18 years of age	53.1	68.6
Average number for each pupil enrolled	81.1	97.8
Whole number of teachers	286,593	409,193
Number of schoolhouses	178,222	242,390
Value of school property	\$209,571,718	\$492,703,781
Total receipts	134,194,806	199,317,397
Total expenditures	140,506,715	194,020,470
Average expenditures per capita of population	1.56	2.67
Average expenditure per pupil, in average attendance	12.71	18.86

Statistical tables are considered forbidding reading, but such a table as the foregoing is, nevertheless, the most effective way in which to present a comparative view like this. While the figures, for the most part, tell their own story, two or three brief remarks may serve a useful purpose.

It will be seen at once that the cross-sections are not twenty years, but only eighteen years, apart. Unfortunately for our purpose, the statistics for the current year will not be available until sometime late in 1901, or possibly until 1902. But if we assume that the gains of 1898-1900 equal those of 1896-98, which is certainly a reasonable assumption, we shall close the century with 244,700 schoolhouses and 418,000 teachers; 15,700,000 pupils enrolled in the schools and an average daily attendance

of 10,825,000; an annual school income of \$206,230,000 and an expenditure of \$203,587,000. The total common school expenditure of the country is now increasing at the rate of about \$5,000,000 a year.

Dangerous fallacies lurk in comparative statistics unless great care is taken in selecting and combining them. Undoubtedly our educational statistics have improved in quality since 1880, and this improvement has tended in one way to increase and in another way to diminish the aggregates. On the whole, however, there is no reason to think that the comparison presented in the table is not a fair one. Moreover, the improved methods of collecting and sifting statistics are one of the improvements that have been made in educational science.

The tests usually applied to such tables as the above show that the minor movements within the whole movement are in the right direction. The per cents of persons between 5 and 18 years of age enrolled in the schools, the ratio of average daily attendance to such enrollment, the average length of the school year, the average number of days attendance for each person between the ages of 5 and 18, the average amount of schooling received per pupil, and the school expenditures per capita for both the total population and the average number of pupils attending, all show a healthy increase. The facts point to the increasing wealth of the country, and to an enhanced interest in education. The Commissioner of Education points out the fact that the gratifying "increase in the length of the school year keeps pace with the growth of large villages and cities." "Urban populations," he says, "have a school session of nine or ten months, while rural districts have three or four months, or at the highest six months. But this view must not be pressed to the point of assuming that rural communities have not lengthened their terms of school. For example, the school term grew in North Carolina 19, South Carolina 18, Georgia 42, Tennessee 22, Louisiana 15, Texas 19, days in the year. The amount of schooling furnished in these States as measured by the length of the term is still painfully small; but perhaps as much progress has been made as could reasonably have been expected. Equal gains were not to be looked for in the old States of the North, as their school terms were already well extended. In another respect the South shows to advantage in comparison with the North. The per cents of population from 5 to 18 years of age in-

creased in all the South Atlantic and South Central States, in Arkansas considerably more than doubling; while in the North Atlantic and North Central States such per cents actually fell off in many cases, and in none did much more than to hold their own. That considerable gains were not made is intelligible enough; but that a loss noticeable in degree should occur in such a State as Massachusetts has never been adequately explained. Perhaps it is due in part to the very improvement of the schools—an increasing number of the children obtaining their elementary education at an earlier age than before. When we pass to the average expenditure per capita of the population, and of the pupil, based on the average daily attendance, the comparison is not so reassuring. It is true that many States of the Old South more than doubled such expenditures, but so did many States at the North. Possibly an advance from 27 cents to 53 cents per capita of the population in North Carolina, or from 31 to 84 cents in Georgia, all things considered, is as significant as an advance from \$2.80 to \$5.07 in Massachusetts, or from \$1.90 to \$4.12 in Rhode Island; but the large ratio is overlooked in the small terms. In 1880 the school expenditure per capita of school population of the sixteen former Slave States and the District of Columbia approximately classified by races was, white \$2.76, colored \$1.09. In 1898 the same averages were \$4.01 and \$2.34.

One of the promising movements of the times is the concentration of rural schools in sparsely populated districts at central points, such as eligible villages, which has been going on in some of the old States, whereby the peculiar advantages of the urban graded school are secured for country children; but this movement has not assumed proportions that sensibly affect the average length of the school year, or the attendance per cent. The comparative merits of the township and the district types of school organization have been under discussion throughout the period, with a steady inclination of the argument to the former; but the practical progress that has been made in this direction has by no means been commensurate with the discussion.

The opinion that our methods of school administration need to be radically changed, at least in cities of considerable size, has gone abroad very widely. The large school board that does a great amount of the executive work which a school system requires through

its own standing committees, has fallen into much disfavor, and even contempt, and the small board with limited powers acting through expert executive officers is strongly preferred by the most competent judges. In several cities, as New Haven, Cleveland, Cincinnati, Toledo, St. Louis, and Milwaukee, the new ideas, in whole or part, have been enacted into law, and are now undergoing the test of experience. In other cities, as Boston, Detroit, and Chicago, strenuous efforts have not, so far, been able to effect the desired reform.

It is much easier to deal with education objectively than subjectively; and it is never easy to extract from statistics their moral significance. Still, undoubted progress has been made in the subjective elements, if not as much as in the objective ones. The average course of elementary study has been somewhat changed for the better, and methods of teaching somewhat improved. Instruction has been made less verbal and more real, as is shown by the extension or introduction of nature studies and manual training. Less stress is laid upon formal Grammar and Arithmetic than formerly, and more time is found for language-lessons, literature, and history. Teachers are slowly emancipating themselves from the old slavery to the text-book, and are gaining larger control of their own minds. To sum up the total effect so far of child-study upon the schools would be an impossible task. Something we may carry to the credit of the movement. Moreover, when child-study has exchanged its high "scientific" methods for common sense, and has ceased to be a fad, it will contribute materially to our culture, but far more as a method reacting upon the minds of teachers than as a body of definitely ascertained acts or a system of doctrine.

Slow changes have been going on in the teaching force. At the earlier period, 42.8 per cent. of the public school teachers were men; at the later period only 32.2. Women teachers have been steadily gaining ground in parts of the country where they were not formerly held in high esteem, as in the Southern States. Mixed consequences flow from the change. In some communities the employment of more women means higher culture and better character in the teaching force; in other communities, it means a distinct loss of power in the schoolroom. Something depends upon the relative number of men and women found in the schools, as well as upon the educational and personal qualifications of candidates applying for

teachers' positions. When the average per cent. of men teachers in any State falls below 20, it is time to remember that men as well as women are needed in fair proportion in the schools.

The evidence that the preparation of common school teachers is improving, is convincing. Dr. Harris has shown that from 1880 to 1897 the enrollment in public normal schools increased from about 10,000 to over 40,000, or fourfold, and in private normal schools from 2,000 to 24,000, or twelvefold. At the first date there were 240 normal students in every million of our population; in 1897 there were 976 in every million. In the same period the total number of teachers increased from 280,094 to 403,333, or 44 per cent.

Something has been done to improve the teachers' tenure of office. In Cincinnati, for instance, after the teacher has passed a suitable novitiate he is elected for good behavior. The average term of service in a particular school, and the average period of service, are both lengthening. A number of cities have taken measures to establish teachers' pension funds; but unfortunately these measures have sometimes been taken so clumsily that there is reason to fear that the school authorities will be obliged to go backward before they can go forward.

It was not until ten years ago that the Bureau of Education attempted to obtain returns from high schools that were outside of cities. In 1890 only 2,526 such schools, with 202,963 pupils enrolled, reported; in 1898 the number had increased to 5,315 schools, with 459,813 pupils. Well may the Commissioner call this increase "phenomenal." Still, the number of pupils he holds to be somewhat too small, as there are many secondary pupils outside the completely organized high schools whom there are no means of reaching. Still more, 1990 private schools — high schools, academies, preparatory schools, etc. — furnished instruction to 166,302 pupils. The grand totals are, therefore, 7,805 secondary schools reporting and 626,111 pupils. Or if we add the supposed pupils in public schools not reported, we have a total of 650,000. Students in commercial schools still remain outside the list. The secondary pupils were 3.75 per cent. of the aggregate enrollment in schools of all kinds, not mentioning the miscellaneous schools to be named farther on.

In the high schools we meet an intimation of one of the most significant facts in our recent history, viz., the increasing number of women who are seeking the higher education.

The pupils enrolled in the public schools, high schools included, were thus divided between the two sexes: males, 7,643,496; females, 7,395,514. But in the public high schools alone the division was: males, 189,188, females, 260,413; while in all the schools reporting secondary pupils, there were 284,379 males to 341,736 females.

The various secondary schools graduated 65,170 pupils, or nearly 12 per cent. of the total number enrolled. The pupils who were preparing for college were 77,559, or about 14 per cent. of the total number. But of the graduates, 19,940, or nearly 31 per cent., had prepared for college. Confining the view to the public high schools, about 10 per cent. of the males and 12 per cent. of the females graduated, or 19,247 of the one sex, and 33,775 of the other; while 13.5 per cent. of the males and 9.75 per cent. of the girls, or 25,627 and 25,425, respectively, were preparing for college. Again, of the graduates the corresponding per cents were 34.8 and 23.25, and the corresponding numbers 6,699 and 7,853. It is significant that while the total number of students preparing in public higher schools for college is all the time increasing, the proportion of such students to the total number taught in such schools is all the time falling off. In 1890 the latter per cent. was 14.44; in 1898 it had fallen to 11.36. These per cents, taken in connection with other facts, show conclusively that for eight years, at least, secondary education grew much more rapidly than higher education. And yet higher education made a remarkable growth, as we shall soon show.

The last observation calls up the twin functions of American high schools—to fit one class of students for active life and another class for college. These schools are undoubtedly growing more rapidly in the one direction than in the other. They are emphasizing the people's college idea more than the fitting school idea. This fact is somewhat accentuating the old difficulty of so constituting courses of study as to make them answer, or well answer, both purposes. This problem, along with other related problems, has engaged the earnest attention of some of our ablest educators. The Committee of Ten on Secondary Education and the Committee on College Entrance Requirements have both grappled with important phases of the general subject, and with good results. In these discussions, the purely secondary school view, or high

school view, has received the recognition that it never received before. Hitherto secondary teachers have been an uninfluential body compared with secondary teachers in the leading countries of Europe; they are still, no doubt, inferior to them in this particular; but they are now becoming a strong, as well as a numerous, host. College professors should at once face the fact, if they have not already done so, that college entrance requirements will exert much less influence upon secondary schools in the future than in the past.

The relative number of students in colleges at different times, compared with the whole population, has fluctuated very considerably. In 1870 President Barnard, of Columbia College, showed that the ratio of New England alone at four different periods was as follows: 1826, 1 to 1,513; 1838, 1 to 1,294; 1855, 1 to 1,689; 1869, 1 to 1,927.

From 1838 to 1869, while the college ratio was falling off, the population of New England increased more than 50 per cent. A similar declension, Dr. Barnard claims, had taken place all over the country, and his analysis of the New York statistics sustains the claim with respect to that State. These conclusions have never been impeached. Fortunately, however, things soon took a turn for the better. The Commissioner of Education, in his last Report, printed a table showing that the number of students to a million of the population increased as follows from 1872 to 1898: Undergraduate, collegiate, and technical students, from 573 to 1,193; graduate students, from 5 to 74; law students, from 49 to 163; medical students, from 142 to 328; theological students, from 83 to 117. The total increase was from 852 to 1,875.

It is not easy to discover all the causes that enter into such changes as the fluctuations in relative college attendance present to our view. Dr. Barnard was convinced that the general adherence of colleges to the old rigid course of study had much to do with the losses from 1838 to 1869. The traditional type of college education had ceased to meet, he contended, the demands of American society; and he found proof of his statements in the growth of institutions where modern studies received more encouragement and where a liberal election of studies was allowed. He pointed to Harvard and Cornell Universities and the University of Michigan to enforce his arguments. Were Dr. Barnard still living, he would no doubt find a clear demonstration of

his view in the later developments, and he would apparently have a perfect right to do so. It is certainly a significant fact that the recent extraordinary growth of the number of students attending the higher schools has accompanied, or followed hard upon, the general modification of the old college curriculum with respect to range of studies, composition of courses, freedom of elections, and the relaxation of other requirements.

The total amount of money invested in universities and colleges and schools of technology in 1898 was \$311,842,000. The benefactions for the year were \$8,204,000. All told, there were 144,477 students enrolled in the higher institutions, including professional schools — 108,695 men and 35,782 women. In the five great sections of the Union the ratios of population to a college student were as follows: North Atlantic States, 714; South Atlantic States, 1,030; South Central States, 1,237; North Central States, 716; Western States, 532.

The most striking fact that appears in the college statistics of the period is the prodigious growth of the strong, and especially of the great, institutions. Trinity College and Wesleyan University, Conn., together increased their students from 264 to 409. Yale College increased hers from 687 to 1,724. Amherst College grew from 339 to 369; Williams College from 227 to 359; Harvard College from 886 to 2,240. Brown University advanced from 247 to 759. The stronger State universities of the West made similar gains. The University of Michigan leaped from 521 to 1,584 in eighteen years; its three leading competitors, if we may trust the tables, actually fell from 395 to 343. Indiana University increased four-fold, the University of Wisconsin three-fold. These statistics, it should be remarked, include proper college students only.

The meaning of the facts just presented is easily read. They show the great advantage that the strong institutions have in prestige, strong faculties, and abundant resources, over the small ones. What will the end be? is a question which many of the smaller colleges and universities are now asking themselves with some misgivings as to the answer.

Full and accurate statistics of attendance upon private schools are hard to obtain, except in the well educated and highly policed states of Europe. In 1898 the Commissioner reported 1,554,725 pupils enrolled in private and incorporated schools of all kinds, to 15,132,918 in public schools and institutions.

Estimation, however, played a great part in the first of these results. The ratio of the one number to the other is a little more than 9 to 100, while the Commissioner holds 15 to 100 to be the normal standard of the country. In 1898 the relative attendance upon private schools had already begun to increase, and since that year it has no doubt made considerable progress toward the normal standard. All things considered, the prosperity of the private schools of the country is perhaps the best educational criterion that we have of the business state of the country. Besides the pupils and students now enumerated, the Commissioner found 485,292 other pupils attending schools of a miscellaneous character that cannot be described. Adding this number to the preceding number, we have a grand total of 17,172,935 persons enrolled in schools of some kind at some time during the year. The ratio to the estimated population was practically 17 to 72, or 1 to 4½.

Such are a few of the many interesting phases that American education presents for the last twenty years. Perhaps they have not all been wisely preferred to others which could readily be made. Perhaps disproportionate stress has been placed upon external and quantitative features, as we Americans are sometimes charged with doing. The writer denies, however, most emphatically, that he is forgetful of the object of education, and guards himself against possible misapprehension with the further remark that great progress has undoubtedly been made in subjective or qualitative elements. Defects in our national education are both numerous and serious; but, upon the whole, the showing for twenty years is distinctly encouraging.

At the close, a word may well be given to the growth of educational associations and societies of one sort and another. The growth of many of these bodies in numbers and influence is among the greatest surprises of the period. For example, an attendance of 10,000 members contributing to the treasury upon an annual meeting of the National Educational Association, is not now at all unusual. What is more to the purpose, however, is the contribution to real educational progress that this association has made through its discussions and published proceedings, and especially through the very useful series of reports embodying the results of special investigations that it has conducted through its committees.

B. A. HINSDALE.

TRIBUTES FROM OUR FRIENDS.

The announcement of the completion of THE DIAL's twentieth year, and of its anniversary number, has brought from friends of the paper in all parts of the country, and in England, many delightful words of congratulation, and it is a sincere pleasure to the Editors and Publishers to present some of these herewith.

THE DIAL has uniformly directed its energies to the work of upholding the best standards of literary criticism in this country. It has done this with dignity, courage, and strength; and it has added modernity of its own. There is much to be thankful for in the fact that such a publication has had so long and so prosperous a life,—and that it should now seem to be but entering upon its youth.

JAMES LANE ALLEN.

New York, April 8.

It affords me genuine pleasure to be able to congratulate the editors and publishers of THE DIAL on the completion of the twentieth year of publication. I have been a constant reader during these memorable twenty years, and have noted with great satisfaction the success of THE DIAL as a factor in American literature. May it continue to maintain the same high ideal as in the past, and remain a power for good long after its editor and contributors of twenty years ago shall have laid away their pens forever.

RASMUS B. ANDERSON.

Madison, Wis., March 29.

I am glad to join in the chorus which must by this time be swelling in your ears, on THE DIAL's having entered upon the year of its majority. For a journal of criticism, having such a high standard of excellence as THE DIAL, to have lived for twenty years among a hurried and nervous people, too busy most of them to give to it the thoughtful consideration which it merits and which it really needs in order that its value may be demonstrated, is in itself an achievement. I congratulate not only yourselves in having so successfully lived up to your ideals, but the American people as well for having had the good taste to like you and your ways sufficiently to make your twentieth anniversary possible. May THE DIAL wax fat and prosperous, and some day be found celebrating its five times twentieth anniversary.

JOHN KENDRICK BANGS.

New York, April 4.

I congratulate you on this your twentieth anniversary. THE DIAL represents to me much the best periodical of its class in this country, and I wish you for the future every success.

GEORGE P. BRETT.

New York, April 7.

I tender to you my congratulations on your twentieth birthday. May you live a thousand years! If you have a bric-a-brac corner for nonsense verses in your anniversary number, I enclose a foolish but honest contribution.

A NONSENSE RHYME OF GAFFER TIME AND THE DIAL.

Time and The Dial looked each other in the face.
Quoth Time to The Dial: "You have earned your place."

No gall is in your vial, but with dignity and grace
You have kept espial on the scribbling race."

Time and The Dial shook each other by the hands.
Quoth Time to The Dial: "You're one that understands,

Though a book must stand its trial, and failure
bear the rub,
It is better to annihilate with courtesy than club."

Time and The Dial struck up a friendship true.
Quoth Time to The Dial: "I beg you'll see me through."

I will take no denial, for should Golden Age accrue,
And I turn poet, Dial, I would be reviewed by you."

KATHARINE LEE BATES.

Wellesley, Mass., April 12.

In common with other literary men I have heard with great interest that THE DIAL is about to celebrate the completion of its twentieth year of publication. I can say in all sincerity that, busy man as I am, I confine my reading to a very few papers and periodicals, among which THE DIAL has a foremost place on account of the judicious criticism, the fairness, and the terseness which distinguish its contents.

J. G. BOURINOT.

*House of Commons,
Ottawa, March 31.*

THE DIAL is to be heartily congratulated on the attainment of its twentieth birthday. It is easily our most valuable literary review. It has been faithful to the best literary traditions from the first, and will no doubt continue to be so.

JOHN BURROUGHS.

West Park, N. Y., April 7.

I note with pleasure the completion of THE DIAL's twentieth year, and heartily congratulate you. By the sanity of its literary judgments, by the catholicity of its tastes and of its opinions, and by the responsible character of its signed book reviews, THE DIAL makes a peculiarly strong appeal to men and women interested in the study of literature, and in the development of high standards of literary taste and judgment, in the United States.

NICHOLAS MURRAY BUTLER.

*Columbia University,
New York, March 28.*

It is a cause for congratulation among all lovers of good literature that a paper like THE DIAL has been able to live twenty years—and not only live but thrive. It is one of the very few publications in this country devoted to such matters, that is dignified, self-respecting, intelligent, and reliable. Long may its banner wave! RICHARD BURTON.

*University of Minn.,
Minneapolis, April 5.*

The completion of THE DIAL's twentieth year of publication is something upon which the American people, as truly as the paper's conductors, should be congratulated. THE DIAL has maintained a standard of literary excellence, of critical faithfulness, and of probity and dignity, which has been the more valuable because emanating from a part of our country which itself proudly insists upon its newness. It has, moreover, done American literature a special service by unresentingly resisting pressure which every such publication must encounter in our land and day—to use those catchy methods of review and editorship which yield pages so easy to read that they are still easier to forget. Long live THE DIAL, which chooses to draw its faithful shadow not from the earth, but from the sun.

GEORGE W. CABLE.

Northampton, Mass., April 5.

I love THE DIAL, and count it among the choicest journals that come to my hand. It has been my welcome companion from the first number, and has held me in touch with the best thought in Chicago, so long my home, and the region we call the Middle West, which was "Way out West" when I went to live there more than forty years ago. I read THE DIAL also because I like to be well informed about what is going on in the world of letters, and feel sure it is no mere mouth-piece or hired servant of the publishers,—and I know of no higher praise.

ROBERT COLLYER.

New York, April 13.

I read THE DIAL with interest because it does not delude me with false pretensions. I like it because, on the whole—for it is a bit unequal, and sometimes falls below its highest standards—its tone is mainly neither truckling nor captious; because it stands for ideas and principles, and does not pander to the idle whimsies of the passing hour, nor feed each baneful madness as it arises. I admire it because it is not only readable, but seems to me to stand for enlightened patriotism, for order and progress, for the encouragement of wholesome literature, and to be strong and brave enough to utter its opinions in the teeth of those who, whether carelessly or wilfully, strive to belittle and overthrow the institutions which are the hope of humanity. May it flourish until those institutions have triumphed over all their foes, and may it have an honored place in the procession which celebrates the victory! ALBERT S. COOK.

Yale University, New Haven, Conn., April 21.

For the past eight years I have read THE DIAL every issue. I have had from it during those years more satisfying and exact criticism in literary matters than from all the other magazines I have ever read in all the years of my life. I wish I could say more—of the uprightness, dignity, and intelligence which speak to me from every page of THE DIAL. But my words, however expressed, would fail to tell you all I think—so these few lines must suffice.

ALICE MORSE EARLE.

Brooklyn, N. Y., April 7.

I send my greetings and congratulations to you upon the completion of the twentieth year of the publication of THE DIAL. I recognize it as a powerful force in the strengthening and purification of contemporary literature. It has done much for the cultivation of taste and the elevation of literary standards in our country. It is a force which I should be sorry to miss, and, with the growth of our country, I heartily wish THE DIAL not only prosperity but length of days.

WILLIAM ELLIOT GRIFFIS.

Ithaca, N. Y., April 9.

I am glad to learn of THE DIAL's anniversary. I cannot believe that it is twenty years since the world has had the advantage of reading THE DIAL. But I do know that the world has advanced in everything admirable in that time, and I am quite sure that THE DIAL may claim a noble place in that advance.

EDWARD EVERETT HALE.

Roxbury, Mass., April 9.

It is a great pleasure to join with a word of congratulation your many other readers, on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of THE DIAL's founding. I cannot, to tell the truth, look back over THE DIAL's two decades; it is the second only that I survey, with lively feeling when I think of the continual interest and stimulus with which I have considered the results of your work. There are many forms of criticism, but in almost all of them there is the possibility of sincerity, scholarship, dignity. THE DIAL can show in the long run most of the different critical temperaments. That is due to its contributors, who will be different by nature. But with all such differences, there will be something that remains the same, and this it is which the paper itself supplies. This spirit, this character, THE DIAL has long had, nor do I think the last decade has altered it, save in the way of strengthening. I can couple no better wish with my congratulations than a hope that in all the changes among its contributors, it will preserve the character and tone which have now so long distinguished it.

E. E. HALE, JR.

*Union College,
Schenectady, N. Y., April 18.*

The citizens of Chicago should congratulate themselves that THE DIAL has reached the twentieth year of its publication. It means much for Chicago and the Northwest that THE DIAL has made steady forward progress, and, as it is a source of help to every man or woman who is interested in intellectual matters, every such man or woman should help THE DIAL. Many of us at the University will join in congratulating its editor that the journal has reached the age of twenty years.

WILLIAM R. HARPER.

University of Chicago, April 6.

I have always felt proud of THE DIAL's excellent editing and judicial criticism, and have always been thankful that such a journal could be published in the great Western metropolis. I am therefore glad that you are celebrating the twentieth anniversary of this remarkable periodical.

WILLIAM T. HARRIS.

*Bureau of Education,
Washington, D. C., March 31.*

I beg to extend to you my hearty congratulations upon the near completion of the twenty years of THE DIAL. I know of no publication that for the last twenty years has more consistently and successfully contended for the best things in literature than has THE DIAL.

D. C. HEATH.

Boston, March 30.

Allow me to congratulate you upon the twentieth birthday of your valuable publication. The career of THE DIAL has been creditable to American literature, in my judgment, as regards ability, integrity, and independence.

THOMAS WENTWORTH HIGGINSON.

Cambridge, Mass., April 11.

I congratulate THE DIAL upon its anniversary, and I wish for it an increasing success, because THE DIAL represents a thoughtful consideration of current literature. It is not only that THE DIAL has maintained a high standard of critical comment that I wish it well, but also because THE DIAL is so important a medium of literary interpretation in the great empire which may roughly be termed the Middle West. I know and care much for the West, which is proving its literary possibilities, just as it has long since proved its right to a commanding place in the business world. I wish you good things for the future.

RIPLEY HITCHCOCK.

New York, March 29.

I am glad of the opportunity to send a word of congratulation not only to you, but to the reading public, and the public which may yet be cultivated to read, on THE DIAL's having completed twenty years of its useful career. Whatever may be the attitude of the East toward the culture of the West, I at least have been rejoiced to find in Chicago an

organ whose judgments on literary matters have commanded my respect so thoroughly. Long may your work continue, and great may be your satisfaction in it!

HENRY HOLT.

New York, March 29.

I wish prosperity in all ways to THE DIAL.

HENRY IRVING.

Providence, R. I., March 28.

I am glad to congratulate you on your twentieth anniversary. THE DIAL has always stood for character. It has the old Puritan conscience on which everything that is lasting in our country is built. It is sane, wise, truthful; it is honest, hopeful, and kindly, and with all this it is the best journal of literary criticism which we have, and we ask no better.

DAVID S. JORDAN.

Stanford University, Cal., April 18.

I hope THE DIAL's sun may never go back on it (a circumstance unusual, but with biblical precedent).

ANDREW LANG.

St. Andrews, Scotland, March 29.

THE DIAL has been for years not only a comfort but rather a mystery to me. Amid its time and circumstance it has seemed very much as to one scaling the Bolivian Andes would seem a hail in pure English from the cliff above. An adventitious piquancy is doubtless added to our surprise by the mere fact of locality; but the intrinsic wonder is to find such a journal published anywhere, to-day. Even a frontiersman may be forgiven sensitiveness over the spread of insincerity, flippancy, shallowness, commercialism, in American letters; and relief at finding here and there an undragged standard. For the frontier is far enough from the footlights to get perspective on the stage; and near enough Nature to retain some notion of what the make-believe really all comes to. In such a seat even the dullest onlooker may learn. My first knowledge of THE DIAL came about by a personal suggestion by Whittier, who practiced what he preached. During all the years since, it has been a preferred creditor, putting me deeper and deeper in its debt. Of more than a hundred periodicals every month brings to my desk, there are two I invariably read throughout—"The Nation" and THE DIAL. Critical criticism is as valuable as it is rare. Sometimes I find it elsewhere. I can depend on finding it here. And with it the antidote for many imminent pessimisms. In any serious adjudication we must, I believe, rank as one of the finest and rarest achievements in American journalism the upbuilding, through a changeable generation and in its most fevered city, a review so cool, so sane, so competent, so unbitten with our generic new unrest; so immune against our penny-foolishness and our Yellow-plush attitude to literature; so even-handed in upholding so high standards of

criticism. The twentieth anniversary of such a paper seems to a Far Westerner to call for more than the mere perfunctory compliments of the day. It is a due time to express the sincere gratitude of such Americans as find, in general, not too many things to be grateful for.

CHAS. F. LUMMIS.

Los Angeles, Cal., April 2.

From the very beginning of its career THE DIAL has stood consistently for the highest standards of literary art, for sound and true workmanship, for large and sane views. It has been notably free from provincialism of taste, and from the weakness of confusing the novel and striking with the true and the real. It has kept the perspective of a comprehensive knowledge of literature, and has happily combined loyalty to the great traditions with love of freedom and openness of mind. Its wise conservatism has been a check to eccentricity of taste; its catholicity has kept it in touch with the best in contemporary writing. It has been a medium for sound scholarship, and it has steadily encouraged that quality of mind which makes way for true art even where it does not produce it. In the intellectual history of two decades it has loyally served the best interests of American scholarship and literature; while its dignity and moderation have done much to disseminate good taste and a true valuation of sound form.

HAMILTON W. MABIE.

New York, April 5.

My congratulations to THE DIAL on its growing age. Men shrink from the crowding years: a journal should rejoice in them. THE DIAL has been coming to my library table for a long decade; and I look to it with confidence for seasoned opinions on the literary movements of the time. I wish it a green old age.

EDWIN MARKHAM.

Brooklyn, N. Y., April 16.

I like your journal thoroughly, and wish it well, and hope it may have a long life—in which to show (as it has shown in all the past) that dignity and conscience and kindness may go to good criticism, without sacrifice of thoroughness, or of acumen.

DONALD G. MITCHELL.

Edgewood, April 11.

I beg leave to congratulate the editors of THE DIAL on its twentieth anniversary. I do not think you would wish me here to praise at length the scholarly breadth, and the good manners of its criticism. I have read it for years, and it has always given me the impression of being in the company of refined gentlemen who are agreeably relating the literary affairs of the day.

S. WEIR MITCHELL.

Philadelphia, March 28.

I congratulate THE DIAL on its birthday and wish it a great many more of them. Like Mr. Riley's old man who'd turned threescore and ten, "it has found out the trick and can do it again." The trick in THE DIAL's case has been always telling the truth, fearlessly though modestly. I believe that by doing so it has won the confidence of both writers and readers.

CHARLES LEONARD MOORE.

Philadelphia, March 30.

It gives me pleasure to say that for nearly all the past twenty years I have read THE DIAL constantly, and found it speaking with dignity and authority on the subjects which have interested me. Its reviews appeal to me as do those of the best English papers, minus the acidity. I congratulate you upon your fifth of a century, and I sincerely hope you may attain to the rounded century itself.

HARRISON S. MORRIS.

Philadelphia, March 30.

THE DIAL has long seemed to me to be one of the best and most successful efforts ever made in this country in sound literary criticism. Its standard has been high, and it has been intelligent and just. Its editors and publishers are to be sincerely congratulated on their achievement and on the success which has crowned their twenty years of work.

HENRY LOOMIS NELSON.

New Rochelle, N. Y., April 10.

I am glad to offer you my congratulations on the completion of the twentieth year of the life of THE DIAL, but I feel even more inclined to offer my congratulations to its readers, to whom this anniversary gives assurance of the prosperity and permanence of a journal which they could ill spare. The good sense, the sound critical judgment, the liberal spirit, the high principles of THE DIAL, all maintained with simplicity, steadiness, and without pretension, have secured the respect as well as the cordial regard of its readers. It has been from the outset one of the best evidences of the civilization, and one of the best agents of the culture, of Chicago.

CHARLES ELIOT NORTON.

*Harvard University,
Cambridge, Mass., April 21.*

As a lover of good literature I admire and sympathize with your efforts to speak of letters as they should be spoken of—as something affecting the highest interest and most enduring emotions of mankind. In these days Literature is in danger of being degraded to an infinitely lower level than when it lurked in the squalidest attics of Grub Street; it is falling a prey to the most ignorant and pernicious kind of smart society journalism, or it is being listed as a brand of national output on the

same level as hides and tallow, shoddy cloth or patent medicines. All honor to the journal which still judges the product of man's thought and fancy by other than a cash standard, and is more concerned to appreciate the work than to gabble pointlessly, where not offensively, about the worker. Cordial greeting and good wishes.

ALFRED NUTT.

London, March 28.

It is a pleasure to congratulate THE DIAL upon the completion of twenty years of distinguished service to the higher life of America. The qualities which I admire most in THE DIAL are its public spirit, its courage, its wholesome plainness of speech, its severe standards of literary excellence, and its freedom from mere literary gossip.

BLISS PERRY.

Boston, April 12.

I learn with pleasure of your twentieth anniversary celebration, and wish to congratulate you on the event. I am, as ever, cordially interested in the continued prosperity of the journal which has done so much for good literature and whose standard of criticism and of literary presentation is so high and so refined.

GEO. HAVEN PUTNAM.

New York, March 28.

I first saw a copy of THE DIAL some six years ago, and since then have read it regularly. I regard it as one of the very best of our literary periodicals, and have always taken pleasure in commending it in my lectures and lessons. I am glad it is to celebrate a twentieth anniversary.

W. J. ROLFE.

Cambridge, Mass., April 16.

It is a pleasure to think that THE DIAL has lived a score of years. No motley fool ever drew it from his poke and looked at it with lack lustre eye, for it makes no appeal to such. The lovers of good literature, and those who believe in the dignity of literature, are especially grateful to it for its freedom from petty gossip; one can really tell time by THE DIAL: it does not confuse one by having a looking-glass face.

HORACE E. SCUDDER.

Cambridge, Mass., April 9.

While noting the fact that THE DIAL has made its regular appearance under that name for a term of twenty full years, I think it especially worth while to bear in mind how steadfast the paper has been in its aims, purposes, and methods. Many periodicals have changed editors, altered their form and appearance, and still more greatly changed their policies and objects. But THE DIAL has gone serenely forward, true as steel to its own high ideals, and faithful to its own high standards of criticism and canons of good taste. I have had the

pleasure and advantage of a familiar acquaintance with THE DIAL ever since its first days. Those who have known THE DIAL do not need to be told how perfect has been the discriminating sympathy of its editor with all that has been finest and best in our literary and social progress. With all deference to other editors, I cannot think of any in our own generation, east or west, who has seemed to me so consistently devoted to the best ends of criticism and literary journalism, and so wholly free from commercialism on the one hand or passing fads on the other. THE DIAL has always preferred the signed review. It has kept itself free from that anonymous pettiness, detraction, and stabbing-in-the-back that has prevailed in some other quarters, and that has had the effrontery to palm itself off for scholarly and sincere criticism. THE DIAL has had no blacklist of authors whom its editor and its reviewers have conspired to write down and injure irrespective of the merits of their books. Those log-rolling methods so prevalent in the literary journals and book-reviewing circles of London, and to some extent supposed to be known also in New York, have never been countenanced by THE DIAL. The paper has on the contrary sought always to be just and considerate.

ALBERT SHAW.

New York, April 4.

All health to THE DIAL! From no literary journal, foreign or domestic, have I derived more profit during the twenty years of its existence — a time in which it has been needful for me to keep in touch with current publications. The review has been so free from the "diseases of childhood," nervous or otherwise, as to constitute it almost a species by itself. On the rare occasions when a reader dissents from its criticism, he must still recognize its good taste and style, its scholarship, and the open mind of the reviewer. Nothing less, I think, could have enabled THE DIAL to thrive and continue, in a country where too meagre a support is given by the book-trade and the public to our few strictly critical journals. THE DIAL has been of such service that it would be ill indeed if anything were to hinder its future life and increase.

EDMUND C. STEDMAN.

Bronzeville, N. Y., April 14.

It is my opinion that THE DIAL occupies a leading position in the front rank of purely literary periodicals, published in the English language, and I congratulate it on its twentieth anniversary.

FRANK R. STOCKTON.

Charles Town, W. Va., April 11.

For years I have read your columns with deep interest and with perfect confidence. I have even said to myself, "When in doubt consult THE DIAL: surely it cannot lie." I congratulate you on your

twentieth anniversary, and if I am still in the flesh I shall be glad to do it again when you are twice as old. All good wishes!

CHARLES WARREN STODDARD.

Washington, D. C., April 17.

Congratulations to THE DIAL on its twentieth anniversary,—to its publishers and its editors, whose good work from the far away beginning I have personally known,—good because sincere, strong, refined, sane, in spite of appalling contemporary inducements to blaze, and glare and vulgarity and the tyranny of cliques.

MOSES COIT TYLER.

Cornell University,
Ithaca, N. Y., April 20.

I note with interest that you are approaching your twentieth birthday. My profession naturally compels me to do a large amount of reading, and therefore I can only skim many American papers that come into my hands, but of the two or three that are always attractive, I confess THE DIAL takes almost first place, as I find it keeps me au courant with American books. May you have many years of successful career in the interest of good literature.

T. FISHER UNWIN.

London, March 29.

Congratulations to THE DIAL on twenty years of loyalty to the light that fails not.

HENRY VAN DYKE.

Princeton, N. J., April 5.

Congratulations to THE DIAL on its twenty years of life! It has always stood for intelligence, honesty, and sobriety—qualities which are still (thank heaven!) held in esteem. More power to its elbow in these days when the sense of proportion seems to be forgotten, and hysterical enthusiasm blazes its yellow way through the book-review and the literary "appreciation"! JOHN C. VAN DYKE.

Guaymas, Mexico, April 12.

THE DIAL is certainly to be congratulated upon having reached a vigorous and prosperous manhood, and gained the solid respect of the country as a serious and impartial journal of literary criticism, without resorting to pictures or personalities, or mistaking the back-stairs gossip about writers for literature.

CHARLES DUDLEY WARNER.

Norfolk, Va., April 2.

Your paper has so constantly combined kindness of temper with frank honesty of critical opinion that anyone must feel a rare pleasure in being permitted to offer congratulations on its twentieth birthday.

BARRETT WENDELL.

Harvard College,
Cambridge, Mass., April 16.

A DIRECTORY OF THE AMERICAN PUBLISHING TRADE.

In connection with THE DIAL's twentieth anniversary number, it has been thought that a complete and authoritative Directory of the American Publishing Trade, as constituted May 1, 1900, would be of value and interest, and accordingly the following list is presented to our readers. The Directory has been prepared especially for this issue of THE DIAL, from information furnished for the purpose by the publishers themselves. The data given, which is necessarily limited and condensed, aims to cover the following points: Firm-name in full, successive changes in firm-name with dates of such changes, names of officers or present members of company or firm, special line of publications, number of titles on list, address in full. It is believed that no name of any significance in the legitimate publishing trade of the country has been omitted. It may be mentioned that in a few instances publishers failed to respond to our request for information, and in such cases the firm-name and address only is given.

ABBEE PRESS, THE. Established 1898. Present members: Carlos Martyn, Charles F. Rideal. 114 Fifth Ave., New York.

ADVANCE PUBLISHING CO. Corporation. Founded 1880. Officers: J. C. Kilner, Mrs. H. S. Harrison, P. A. Kilner. Religious and juvenile publications. Titles, 14. 215 Madison St., Chicago.

ALLEN & CO., HENRY G. Founded 1887. Henry G. Allen only present member. Works of reference. Titles, 6. 150 Fifth Ave., New York.

ALLYN & BACON. Founded 1870, John Allyn; 1888, Allyn & Bacon. Present members: John Allyn, George A. Bacon. Educational text-books. Titles, 173. 172 Tremont St., Boston.

ALTEMUS COMPANY, HENRY. Corporation. Founded 1842, Henry Altemus; incorporated 1900, Henry Altemus Company. Officers: Henry Altemus, Howard E. Altemus, Henry Altemus, Jr. Miscellaneous publications. Titles, 418. 507-513 Cherry St., Philadelphia.

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF POLITICAL AND SOCIAL SCIENCE. Corporation. Founded 1889; incorporated 1891. Officers: Edmund J. James, S. M. Lindsay, F. H. Giddings, Woodrow Wilson, L. S. Rowe, Stuart Wood. Works on political and social science. Titles, 273. Station B., Philadelphia.

AMERICAN BAPTIST PUBLICATION SOCIETY. Corporation. Founded 1824. Officers: Samuel A. Crozer, A. J. Rowland, B. F. Dennison. Business manager, M. Strien. Religious publications. 1420 Chestnut St., Philadelphia.

AMERICAN BOOK COMPANY. Corporation. Founded 1890. Officers: H. T. Ambrose, Alfred C. Barnes, Charles P. Batt, Gilman A. Tucker. Educational text-books. Titles, 2500. Washington Square, New York.

AMERICAN TRACT SOCIETY. 150 Nassau St., New York.

APPLETON & COMPANY, D. Corporation. Founded 1825 by Daniel Appleton; 1838, Daniel Appleton & Company; incorporated 1897. Fiction, scientific and educational works, and miscellaneous. 72 Fifth Ave., New York.

ARMSTRONG & SON, A. C. Founded 1879. Present members: Andrew C. Armstrong, J. Sinclair Armstrong. Theological and miscellaneous publications. 51 E. 10th St., New York.

- ARNOLD & COMPANY.** Founded 1884. Present members: James McKean Arnold, George H. Buchanan. Cook books and miscellaneous. 420 Sansom St., Philadelphia.
- BADGER & COMPANY, RICHARD G.** Founded 1897. Richard G. Badger only present member. Fiction, poetry, and belles lettres. Titles, 50. 157 Tremont St., Boston.
- BAKER & TAYLOR CO., THE.** Corporation. Founded 1830; incorporated 1886. Officers: James S. Baker, Herbert S. Baker, Nelson Taylor. Miscellaneous publications. Titles, 100. 5-7 E. 16th St., New York.
- BANCROFT-WHITNEY CO., THE.** 613 Clay St., San Francisco.
- BARNES & CO., A. S.** Founded 1838, in Hartford, Conn.; moved to Philadelphia, 1840, A. S. Barnes & Co.; moved to New York, 1844; 1850, Barnes & Burr; 1865, A. S. Barnes & Co. Henry B. Barnes only present member. Hymn books, etc., and miscellaneous. Titles, 167. 156 Fifth Ave., New York.
- BARRIE & SON, GEORGE.** 1313 Walnut St., Philadelphia.
- BIDDLE, DREXEL.** Founded 1894, Drexel Biddle & Bradley Publishing Co.; 1896, Drexel Biddle. Miscellaneous publications. Titles, 50. 228 S. 4th St., Philadelphia.
- BLAKISTON'S SON & CO., P.** Founded 1843, Lindsay & Blakiston; 1880, Presley Blakiston; 1882, P. Blakiston, Son & Co.; 1898, P. Blakiston's Son & Co. Kenneth M. Blakiston only present member. Medical and scientific publications. Titles, 298. 1012 Walnut St., Philadelphia.
- BONAME, LOUISE C.** 258 S. 16th St., Philadelphia.
- BONNELL, SILVER & CO.** Founded 1896. Present members: Charles E. Bonnell, Elmer B. Silver. Miscellaneous publications. Titles, 42. 24-26 W. 22d St., New York.
- BOSTON BOOK CO., THE.** Freeman Place Chapel, Boston.
- BOUTON, J. W.** 10 W. 28th St., New York.
- BOWEN-MERRILL CO., THE.** Corporation. Founded 1838, Merrill & Co.; by consolidation with Bowen, Stewart & Co., The Bowen-Merrill Co. Law books and miscellaneous. 9-11 W. Washington St., Indianapolis, Ind.
- BRADLEY & CO., A. I.** 234 Congress St., Boston.
- BRADLEY COMPANY, MILTON.** Corporation. Founded 1884. Officers: G. W. Tapley, Milton Bradley. Kindergarten publications. Springfield, Mass.
- BRANDT, ALBERT.** Founded 1900. Miscellaneous publications. Titles, 6. Trenton, N. J.
- BRENTANO'S.** Corporation. Founded 1852, August Brentano; 1877, Brentano's; incorporated 1899. Officers: Simon Brentano, Arthur Brentano, Charles E. Butler, Clive Mecklem. Miscellaneous publications. Titles, 150. 31 Union Square, New York.
- BROWN & COMPANY.** Corporation. Founded 1898. Officers: Charles B. Pendleton, C. L. Stebbins. Fiction, belles lettres, history. Titles, 14. 12 Pearl St., Boston.
- BUCKLES & CO., F. M.** Founded 1899. Present members: Frank M. Buckles, George N. Fenno. Fiction and novelties. Titles, 33. 9-11 E. 16th St., New York.
- BURROWS BROTHERS COMPANY, THE.** Corporation. Founded 1873; incorporated 1886. Officers: C. W. Burrows, H. B. Burrows. Historical and miscellaneous publications. Titles, 75. 133-137 Euclid Ave., Cleveland, O.
- BUTLER, SHELDON & CO.** 919 Walnut St., Philadelphia.
- CALLAGHAN & COMPANY.** Founded 1864, Callaghan & Cutler; later, Callaghan & Cockcroft; 1871, Callaghan & Company. Present members: Wilson L. Mead, Frederick Darvill, Charles E. Gill, James E. Callahan, N. A. Clark. Law books exclusively. Titles, 800. 114 Monroe St., Chicago.
- CARTER & CO., H. H.** 5 Somerset St., Boston.
- CASELL & COMPANY, Ltd.** 7-9 W. 18th St., New York.
- CENTURY CO., THE.** Founded 1870, Scribner & Co.; 1881, The Century Co. Officers: Frank H. Scott, Chas. F. Chichester, William W. Ellsworth. Subscription books and miscellaneous. Titles, 289. 33 E. 17th St., New York.
- CLARKE COMPANY, THE ROBERT.** Corporation. Founded 1858, Robert Clarke & Co., succeeding by purchase H. W. Derby & Co. (founded 1845 as Derby, Bradley & Co.); incorporated 1894, The Robert Clarke Company. Officers: Roderick D. Barney, John W. Dale, Howard Barney, Alexander Hill. Law books and miscellaneous. Titles, 493. 31-35 E. 4th St., Cincinnati, O.
- COATES & CO., HENRY T.** Founded 1864, Davis Porter & Co., successors to Willis P. Hazard; 1866, Davis Porter & Coates; 1867, Porter & Coates; 1895, Henry T. Coates & Co. Juveniles and miscellaneous. Titles, 839. 1222 Chestnut St., Philadelphia.
- CONGREGATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL AND PUBLISHING SOCIETY.** Founded 1868. General business agent, J. H. Tewksbury. Religious publications (issued under imprint of The Pilgrim Press). Congregational House, Boston.
- CONTINENTAL PUBLISHING COMPANY.** Corporation. Founded 1896. Officers: Egbert Gillias Handy, William George Jordan, William S. Howell, Ramon Reyes Lala. Fiction and miscellaneous. Titles, 210. 24-26 Murray St., New York.
- COOK PUBLISHING COMPANY, DAVID C.** 36 Washington St., Chicago.
- CROSCUP & STERLING COMPANY.** Corporation. Founded 1898. Officers: George E. Croscup, Joseph H. Sterling, Wm. H. Ludington. Subscription editions standard authors. 135 Fifth Ave., New York.
- CROWELL & CO., THOMAS Y.** Founded 1870; 1900, removed from Boston to New York. Present members: Thomas Y. Crowell, E. Osborne Crowell, T. Irving Crowell, J. Osborne Crowell. Standard and miscellaneous publications. 426-428 W. Broadway, New York.
- CURTIS & CAMERON.** Founded 1895 by Benjamin Curtis, as Curtis & Company; 1896, Curtis & Cameron. Present members: Benjamin Curtis, James B. Noyes. Art publications. Pierce Building, Boston.
- CUSHING & COMPANY.** Founded 1810, Joseph Cushing; 1889, Cushing & Co. J. M. Cushing only present member: Law books and miscellaneous. Titles, 35. 34 W. Baltimore St., Baltimore, Md.

- DENISON, T. S.** Founded 1876. Dramatic publications. Titles, 235. 163 Randolph St., Chicago.
- DILLINGHAM CO., G. W.** 29 W. 23d St., N. Y.
- DODD, MEAD & CO.** Founded 1839, Moses H. Dodd; 1870, Dodd, Mead & Co., composed of Frank H. Dodd and Edward S. Mead, Moses H. Dodd retiring. Present members: Frank H. Dodd, Bleeker Van Wagenen, Robert H. Dodd. Miscellaneous publications. Titles, 800. 372 Fifth Ave., New York.
- DODGE PUBLISHING COMPANY.** Corporation. Founded 1889. Officers: O. W. Nordwell, James F. Mason, B. Lust. Art calendars and miscellaneous. Titles, 134. 150 Fifth Ave., New York.
- DOUBLEDAY & McCLURE CO., THE.** Corporation. Founded 1897. Officers: F. N. Doubleday, Walter H. Page, J. L. Thompson, H. W. Lanier. Miscellaneous publications. Titles, 150. 34 Union Square, East, New York.
- DOUBLEDAY, PAGE & CO.** Founded 1900. Present members: F. N. Doubleday, W. H. Page, J. L. Thompson, S. A. Everitt, H. W. Lanier. Miscellaneous publications. 34 Union Square, East, New York.
- DOXEY'S.** Corporation. Founded 1900, successors to The Doxey Book Company of San Francisco. Miscellaneous publications. New York.
- DRAMATIC PUBLISHING COMPANY, THE.** Corporation. Founded 1886; incorporated 1887. Charles H. Sergel, president. Dramatic literature exclusively. Titles on list, 760. 358 Dearborn St., Chicago.
- DUTTON & CO., E. P.** Founded 1852, Ide & Dutton; 1858, E. P. Dutton & Co. Present members: E. P. Dutton, Charles A. Clapp. Religious and miscellaneous publications. 31 W. 23d St., New York.
- EATON & MAINS.** 150 5th Ave., New York.
- ELDREDGE & BRO.** Philadelphia.
- ESTES & COMPANY, DANA.** Founded 1898, successors to publishing department of Estes & Lauriat. Present members: Dana Estes, Frederick R. Estes, Eugene C. Belcher, Francis H. Little. Subscription editions of standard authors, juveniles, and miscellaneous. Titles, 400. 212 Summer St., Boston.
- FENNO & CO., R. F.** Corporation. Founded 1894; incorporated 1895. Officers: Robert F. Fenno, Desmond Fitzgerald. Fiction. 9-11 E. 16th St., New York.
- FLANAGAN, A.** Founded 1883. Teachers' helps, etc. Titles, 175. 267-269 Wabash Ave., Chicago.
- FORBES & COMPANY.** Founded 1898. Present members: J. B. Edmonson, W. A. Gray. Books of verse and miscellaneous. Titles, 7. Box 1478, Boston.
- FORDS, HOWARD, & HULBERT.** Corporation. Founded 1867, J. B. Ford & Co.; incorporated 1877, Fords, Howard, & Hulbert. Officers: J. R. Howard, G. S. Hulbert, F. H. Bell. Miscellaneous publications. Titles, 99. 47 E. 10th St., New York.
- FUNK & WAGNALLS COMPANY.** Corporation. Founded 1876. Reference works and miscellaneous. Titles, 1450. 30 Lafayette Place, New York.
- FOWLER & WELLS CO.** 27 E. 21st St., New York.
- GEBBIE PUBLISHING CO., Ltd.** 900 Chestnut St., Philadelphia.
- GINN & COMPANY.** Founded 1867, Edwin Ginn; 1872, Ginn Brothers; 1876, Ginn & Heath; 1881, Ginn, Heath & Co.; 1885, Ginn & Co. Educational text-books. Titles, 1000. 9-13 Tremont Place, Boston.
- GOUPIL & CO., Manzi, Joyant & Co., successors.** Established 1887, as American branch of Goupil & Co., Paris. Resident manager, Albert Smith. Art works in limited editions. 170 Fifth Ave., New York.
- GROSSET & DUNLAP.** 11 E. 16th St., New York.
- HARDY, PRATT & CO.** 3 Somerset St., Boston.
- HARPER & BROTHERS.** Corporation. Founded 1817, J. & J. Harper; 1833, Harper & Brothers; incorporated 1896. Officers: G. B. M. Harvey, John W. Harper, J. Henry Harper, Henry Sleeper Harper, James Thorne Harper. Miscellaneous publications. Titles, 3000. Franklin Square, New York.
- HARPER, FRANCIS P.** Founded 1882. Present members: Francis P. Harper, Lathrop C. Harper. American exploration, genealogy, etc. Titles, 34. 14 W. 22d St., New York.
- HEATH & CO., D. C.** Corporation. Founded 1886; incorporated 1895. Officers: D. C. Heath, C. H. Ames, W. E. Pulsifer, W. S. Smyth. Educational text-books. Titles, 864. 110 Beylston St., Boston.
- HELMAN-TAYLOR COMPANY, THE.** Corporation. Founded 1897, successors to Taylor-Austin Co. Officers: Byron E. Helman, G. B. Rogers, W. S. Lewis, W. J. Morgan. Miscellaneous publications. Titles, 21. 23-27 Euclid Ave., Cleveland, O.
- HILL CO., GEO. M.** 166 S. Clinton St., Chicago.
- HINDS & NOBLE.** 4 Cooper Institute, New York.
- HOLMAN & CO., A. J.** 1222 Arch St., Philadelphia.
- HOLT & CO., HENRY.** Founded 1866, Leypoldt & Holt; 1871, Leypoldt, Holt & Williams; 1872, Holt & Williams; 1873, Henry Holt & Co. Present members: Henry Holt, Charles Holt. Educational text-books, and miscellaneous. Titles, 1000. 29 W. 23d St., New York.
- HOME PUBLISHING COMPANY, THE.** Founded 1887. Present members: A. C. Gunter, E. L. Gunter. Fiction exclusively. Titles, 53. 3 E. 14th St., New York.
- HOUGHTON, MIFFLIN & CO.** Founded 1828, Carter & Hendee; 1832, Allen & Ticknor; 1833, W. D. Ticknor; 1851, Ticknor, Reed & Fields; 1854, Ticknor & Fields; 1868, Fields, Osgood & Co.; 1871, James R. Osgood & Co.; 1878, by consolidation with Hurd & Houghton (successors in 1864 to firm of Bolles & Houghton, founded 1849), Houghton, Osgood & Co.; 1880, Houghton, Mifflin & Co. Present members: George H. Mifflin, James Murray Kay, L. H. Valentine, Henry O. Houghton, Oscar R. Houghton, Albert F. Houghton. Standard works in general literature, especially of American authors, and educational text-books. Titles, 2000. 4 Park St., Boston.
- HUMBOLDT LIBRARY, THE.** Corporation. Founded 1879; incorporated 1897. Treasurer and manager, D. O'Loughlin. Scientific and economic publications. Titles, 286. 64 Fifth Ave., New York.
- INLAND PUBLISHING COMPANY, THE.** Corporation. Founded 1895; incorporated 1896. Officers: Chas. F. Patterson, Isaac Craft. Educational text-books. Titles, 26. Terre Haute, Ind.
- JACOBS & CO., GEORGE W.** Founded 1893. Present members: George W. Jacobs, George C. Thomas, Jr. Miscellaneous publications. Titles, 100. 103-105 S. 15th St., Philadelphia.
- JENKINS, WILLIAM R.** Founded 1875; conducted since 1890 by Estate of Wm. R. Jenkins, J. Irvin

- Murray, Jr., manager. Educational text-books, veterinary publications, and miscellaneous. Titles, 300. 851-853 Sixth Ave., New York.
- JEWISH PUBLICATION SOCIETY OF AMERICA, THE.** Corporation. Founded 1888; incorporated 1896. Publications on Jewish subjects. Titles, 28. 1015 Arch St., Philadelphia.
- JOHNS HOPKINS PRESS, THE.** Founded 1879. Scientific publications written or edited by members of Johns Hopkins University and Johns Hopkins Hospital. Baltimore, Md.
- KETCHAM, W. B.** 9 W. 18th St., New York.
- LAIRD & LEE.** Founded 1887, by Fred C. Laird and William H. Lee; 1894, Mr. Lee became sole proprietor. Fiction, reference books, and miscellaneous. Titles, 400. 263-265 Wabash Ave., Chicago.
- LANE, JOHN.** Established 1896, as American branch of John Lane, London. Resident manager, Temple Scott. Belles lettres, poetry, fiction, essays, and fine art books. Titles, 500. 251 Fifth Ave., New York.
- LEA BROTHERS & CO.** 708 Sansom St., Philadelphia.
- LEACH & CO., T. S.** Founded 1899. Present members: T. S. Leach, A. J. Ferris. Miscellaneous publications. Titles, 4. 29 N. 7th St., Philadelphia.
- LEE & SHEPARD.** Founded 1861, by William Lee and C. A. B. Shepard, Mr. Shepard now deceased and Mr. Lee retired. Juveniles and miscellaneous. Titles, 1300. 202 Devonshire St., Boston.
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